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Another Successful Chamber Banquet Honors Locals

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It was another amazing evening at this year's Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet held on Thursday, January 19th at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch. Over 160 people attended the dinner and awards ceremony where individuals and organizations in the community were recognized for their dedication to Castroville, the Chamber and the entire community.

After drinks and appetizers, guests were welcomed by 2012 Chamber President Teri Barrow who introduced our MC for the night, Chris Schuchart. Chris once again did an outstanding job and we greatly appreciate him.

While a delicious dinner was being served by the Castroville Cafe, awards were given out to the two Jr. Citizens of the Year, Adam Stein and Claire Tondre. This award is chosen based on the student's community involvement and an essay written on what their community means to them.

Following dinner the Chamber President's Award was then presented to former finance

coordinator Patricia Davila who was quite surprised.

Business of the Year was our next award and that went to Hardt Realty owned by Tim Hardt. Tim is someone you can always count on to get involved in the community. He not only helps the city and Chamber, but is involved with the CAEDC and the Medina Regional Hospital.

The last award of the night was the prestigious Citizen of the Year which went to the Friends of the Castroville Regional Park. Their hard work and countless hours to the community has brought so much to the Regional Park. And of course who could forget the designing and building of the beautiful Friends Amphitheater. They are a great group to work with and truly deserved the award.

Following the awards we recognized outgoing director Gary Carter and all his hard work he did during his 4 year term. Teri Barrow also introduced the newest Board Members, Alexandra Brooks and Tanya Holzhaus as well as chamber office staff Ashlee Bates and Brenda Kempf.

New officers for 2012 were announced: President Teri Barrow, Vice President Monte Bippert and Secretary/Treasurer Hazel Russell.

During the evening several directors spoke on the great accomplishment of the Chamber purchasing our very own building in 2011. We wanted to thank our members for helping raise the initial funds to purchase the building. They encouraged everyone to come check out the building at the upcoming mixer on February 8 and help us raise funds for the next principle payment by attending the Reverse Raffle on March 31, 2012.

2012 President Teri Barrow closed the evening with the popular raffle where prizes were generously donated by local businesses.

Thank you again to all of our banquet sponsors, raffle donors and staff who helped make this year's banquet another successful one! See you all at the Reverse Raffle!

Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon—Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Purchase an ad in the Newsletter, just \$20 per month.
- Congratulations to those celebrating a major milestone anniversary this month:
The Bloomery Flowers —1 yr

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Reverse Raffle Planned to Raise Funds for Chamber Building



*Color may vary

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AN AD IN OUR
NEWSLETTER**



Newsletter Information

Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates
Asst. Editor: Brenda Kempf

Tickets are hot off the press and now available to all those who'd like to help the Chamber raise the additional funds needed to pay for our new home!

The Chamber will host a Reverse Raffle on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at the Braden Keller Community Center and it's an evening you won't want to miss.

Only 250 tickets will be sold to this event which will feature dinner, drinks, a silent auction and of course the highlight of the night, the Reverse Raffle!

What's a Reverse Raffle you may ask? Well it's just like a typical raffle except you want your name to be the very last name drawn to win the grand prize. And boy have we got a grand prize for you. Thanks to a donation from Wommack

Chevrolet, our grand prize is a 2012 Chevrolet Sonic. What an amazing prize!

A second place prize of a \$2,000 gift card will also be given as well as a \$250 gift card to the first name drawn. Several other prizes will be given throughout the evening.

Each ticket is \$250 and admits two to the event where a delicious steak dinner will be served as well as beer, wine, margaritas and non-alcoholic drinks.

We hope you all have a chance to stop by the new chamber office and check out what we've done. We are extremely excited to have a home of our own and look forward to many years here!

Now that the initial \$90,000 has been raised to purchase

the home, we have a \$60,000 principle payment due in April to the Sharp Family. This fundraiser will help us raise those needed funds. It is thanks to members and locals like you that we have a place of our own that can be used for Chamber business as well as a tourist center for those visiting Castroville.

As the first home on the walking tour and a historic home, this building is the perfect place for tourists to visit. They now get to see inside one of our beautiful historic homes we take so much pride in preserving. We couldn't have asked for a better location.

We hope you will help us continue to make this building available to everyone by joining us for this fun and eventful night!

Workshop in Castroville to Provide Economic Resources

The Castroville Area Economic Development Council (CAEDC) presents an Economic Development and Tourism Workshop right here in Castroville.

The workshop will be hosted at the Hotel Alsace & Spa Resort on Thursday and Friday, February 9 and 10.

Over fifteen speakers will be in town to provide

information on the resources available to businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Councils, elected officials, and interested individuals.

Representative from the Office of the Governor, the Texas Department of Agriculture, CPS, UTSA Small Business Development Center, the city of Castroville and several others will be

present during the workshop.

A networking reception will start off the workshop on Thursday evening and a full day on Friday will include several presentations and lunch.

For more details and to register, please contact Arnie Dollase at (830) 538-9048.

New Members since January 1, 2012

Brady's Bloomin Barn, Brady Yecker
Microtel Inn & Suites SeaWorld/Lackland, Debra Rodriguez

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 Wed: Hondo Lions Club, 12 noon, Hondo Community Center

Every Thursday: Live Music at Cora's, 7 - 10pm

03: American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-8pm, American Legion Hall, (210) 355-2963

04-05: Alsatian Country Bike Race, 8am, Research Parkway

05: St. Louis School Pancake Breakfast, 8am, Braden Keller Community Center, (830) 931-3544

06: **Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 12 noon, Hotel Alsace & Spa**

07: **Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. All Members invited!**

Speaker: Susan Poteete of Brady's Bloomin Barn

08: **Chamber Mixer & Open House, 5pm, 1115 Angelo Street, (830) 538-3142**

08: Rotary Club Meeting, 11:45, Old Alsatian Steakhouse, (830) 931-1200

08: Medina Valley VFW Post 8134 Meeting, 8pm, 11012 Castro Ave, La Coste

08: Adult Social, 12 noon to 3pm, MV Methodist Church, cards, games and fellowship

09-10: Economic Development & Tourism Workshop, Hotel Alsace, (830) 538-9048

10: Friday Night Fever, 6-10pm, Wommack Chevrolet, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, (830) 931-2479

11: Work Day at Regional Park, 8am, meet at the pool office, (830) 931-2157

11: Valentine Movie in the Park, 6:30pm, Regional Park Amphitheater, Movie: *Somewhere in Time*

12: Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm, FREE!! (210) 386-6038

16: Senior Citizens Luncheon, 1pm, Medina Valley VFW Hall in La Coste

18: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 10:30am, Castroville Public Library

18: Moye Di Gras, 7pm to 11pm, Braden Keller Community Center, (830) 931-2233

22: Adult Social, 12 noon to 3pm, MV Methodist Church, cards, games and fellowship

25: Kid Fish, 9am to 3pm, Landmark Inn Historic Site, (830) 931-2133

28: Rotary Club Bingo at MV Rehab Center, 7pm-8pm, everyone welcome!

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HERE**



Annual Kid Fish Fun for All Ages

The Landmark Inn welcomes you to their 16th Annual Kids Fish coming up on Saturday February 25, 2012. Come enjoy a day of traditional can pole fishing at the Grist Mill.

Kids ages 5-16 can enjoy a fun day of fishing for Rainbow Trout right out of the Medina River. The event is free for all children and is sponsored by the Friends of the Landmark Inn. Adult entry is just \$5.

The day long event will begin at 9am and end at 3pm.

All children must be accompanied by an adult, however, they will be assisted by Boy Scout Troop 471 of Rio Medina.

Be sure to bring a container to carry your fish home in because all registered children will get to catch up to 5 Rainbow Trout.

No need to bring your own fishing pole as all cane poles and bait will be provided free of charge.

This is a great way to get your little ones started

fishing if they have never done it before. What a great place to learn to fish along the banks of the Medina River with the Landmark Inn as the background. It truly is a great experience.

So mark your calendars now and be sure to head on over to the Landmark Inn's Kid Fish on February 25th. Your kids are sure to have a great time!

For more details contact the Landmark Inn at (830) 931-2133.



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Castroville: Your Hidden Valentine's Spot

So you are looking for something romantic to do for Valentine's but don't want to travel far. Well you don't have to when Castroville has so much to offer right here!

First things first, call in a sitter for the weekend and book a night or two at one of Castroville's cozy accommodations. Choose from the beautiful Hotel Alsace and Spa Resort or one of eight quaint and inviting bed and breakfasts. From historic buildings to breathtaking views, you are sure to find the perfect location for your weekend away!

I bet you haven't tried all the restaurants in town. Well now is the time to start. With a large selection of cuisines, your taste buds are sure to be satisfied for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Maybe it's been a while since you've had a romantic sit down dinner. Castroville has several options to choose from that can offer that perfect ambience you've been looking for.

Schedule a little time for relaxation for the two of you by booking a massage at one of Castroville's spa or massage locations. With our crazy and stressful lives these days everyone needs some time to work out the kinks.

Maybe it's the great outdoors you both enjoy. Castroville has several options to choose from. Book a round of golf at the Alsatian Golf Course or the Golf Club of Texas. How about a hike on one of the many trails at the Castroville Regional Park. Stick your feet in the water and maybe even catch a fish or two on the

banks of the Medina River in the beautiful Regional Park.

Have you ever really enjoyed all the history Castroville has to offer? Now is the perfect time. Enjoy a stroll around town using the Historic Walking Tour as your guide. Stop by many of the beautiful historic buildings including the Landmark Inn, St. Louis Catholic Church, Steinbach House and the new Chamber office located in a historic home built in 1851.

And who could forget about shopping? Castroville has some really great shops that offer unique items and collectibles.

So why drive to town and fight the crowds when Castroville has all you need for a romantic weekend right in your own backyard. Getting away doesn't

have to mean driving too far or spending too much money!

For all your weekend needs, contact the Chamber of Commerce or visit our website at www.castroville.com.

