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### *Fourth Annual Chamber Wine Fest Coming up in April*

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All you wine enthusiasts better be ready for the Chamber's Fourth Annual Wine Fest, "A Taste of the Vine" which will be held on Friday, April 16th from 7pm to 10pm at the Hotel Alsace and Spa Resort.

Everyone in attendance will be able to sample a total of five different French and domestic wines; 2 reds, 2 whites and a rose. Wines are being chosen again this year by Charlie Suehs, our resident wine connoisseur.

Along with the wines, the Alsatian Restaurant will be catering the event with some delicious hors d'oeuvres which will pair nicely with the wines chosen for the event.

And for those who aren't wine drinkers, we will have a keg or two to get you through the night!

Last year we held our first Live Auction at this event and it was a huge success bringing in over \$6,000! The Live Auction will be back again this year and so will our wonderful auctioneer, Terry Dickerson. He knows just how to get the crowd to open those pocket books! We are currently looking for donations for the auction so if you or your business would like to donate, please let us know.

Along with the live auction, we will have a raffle which you can purchase tickets for. The raffle tickets will be \$5 each.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Chamber Office located in the Steinbach House across from Sammy's Restaurant. Tickets are just \$40 per person or purchase a special hotel package which includes a one night stay for

two at the Hotel Alsace and two tickets to the event for just \$182 (tax included). With this special package, there is no need to worry about driving home. Just head on up to your room when the event is over.

We hope you will all join us again this year as we continue to raise money for the Chamber of Commerce with our Fourth Annual Wine Fest! Enjoy an evening of good wine, good food and good friends!

If are interested in purchasing the event package, please contact the Hotel Alsace at 538-3200 to make your reservation. Your tickets will be given to you upon check-in.

We hope to see you all there!

**Special points of interest:**

- Chamber Luncheon—March 2, 2010, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Purchase an ad in the Newsletter, just \$40 per month or \$400 an entire year!
- No Breast Cancer support group meeting this month. Next meeting on April 13th.
- Congratulations to those celebrating their anniversary this year:  
Stephanie's on the Plaza -1 yr  
Advantage Home Security-5 yrs.  
Hair Fashions by Grace - 30 yrs.

### *Irish Jig Looking for Donations & Sponsors*

St. Louis Catholic School is once again hosting their Annual Irish Jig Fundraiser, March 27, 2010 at Braden Keller Community Center.

They are currently looking for donations for the silent auction, raffle and door prizes. Also needed are assorted bottles of wine. A citizen of Castroville has volunteered to build a custom

made wine rack for the auction room and the committee is trying to get it filled with bottles of wine.

If you are interested in donating a bottle of wine or item for the auction or raffle, please contact Colleen Zinsmeyer at (830) 931-6369.

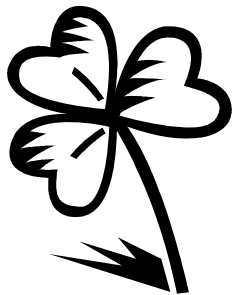
This year's event will again be BYOB and Potluck.

Entertainment for the night comes all the way from Nashville, TN featuring world class artists, songwriters and musicians Brandon Kinney & Jeremy Stover. They will also have local band Touchstone & Friends along with some other surprise entertainment.

For tickets or sponsorship, call Touchstone McDonald at (210) 313-4714.



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## Medina County Relay for Life to Hold Car Show

On March 21, 2010, the Medina County Relay for Life and the South Texas Car Club will host a Car Show to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The event will be held at Lundquist Automotive located at 1955 Hwy 90 E.

The car show will run from 9am to 5pm and car entrants can register from 8am to 11am.

With over 18 classes being featured, there is sure to be a

category for your car or truck. There is a \$25 minimum entry fee per car and all proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. First, second and third place trophies will be given.

John Wommack, General Manager of Lundquist, will be on hand cooking up some delicious food throughout the day and there will be plenty of live music and fun for the whole family.

A special feature at this event will be Adrian Rocamontes and his big rig, "The Sledgehammer". Adrian was named the Mid American Big Rig Build Off Champion in 2006 and the Truck Builder of the Year. Come check out his rig!

Those interested in pre-registering can visit [www.southtexascc.com](http://www.southtexascc.com) and download the registration flyer.

The event is free to the public and all are invited.

## Medina County EMS Offers Safety Classes

It's always a good idea to know the basics of first aid and safety so you are calm and ready if a situation should arise. To help with this, Medina County EMS is now offering classes to the public.

Classes currently being offered are CPR, First Aid, Safety Awareness, Fall Prevention and EMT Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic. CPR & First Aid Classes will be held on March 13th, April 10th and May 8th. The cost is \$40 for CPR and \$60 for CPR & First Aid. There are two classes a day, 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm.

Medina County EMS operates out of three stations, one each in Hondo, Devine and the main station in Castroville. They have 35 employees who work a 24 on/72 off schedule.

In 2009, they were named the "Texas EMS Private/Public Provider of the Year" as well as "Best in the State of Texas." They work closely with several hospitals in San Antonio and in May were awarded "Best Cardiac in the State of Texas" by Methodist and St. Luke's Hospitals.

Besides their normal day to day job, they are very involved in the community and offer free standby

ambulance services to non-profit organizations. They also hold an EMS week at schools in the county and teach a safety program which includes CPR, water safety and bicycle safety.

Each year they sponsor a bike rodeo to explain the importance of wearing a helmet, using proper hand signals and obeying traffic laws. In October they host a haunted house which is free to the community.

If anyone is interested in signing up for one of the classes given by these award winning paramedics, please call the Castroville station at (830) 931-2777.



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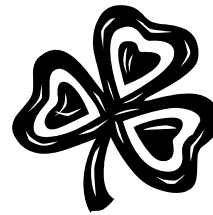
**Newsletter Information**  
 Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates  
 Asst. Editors: Pat Davila & Kimberly Frangesh

## New Member since February 1, 2010

Eatza Pizza, Heather Vaughan  
 The Elizabeth Ray Foundation, Cindy Guzman  
 Colleen Zinsmeyer

## March Calendar of Events

Here's what's happening in Castroville in March. All details can be found on the calendar of events at [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com). If you have an event to add, please email all the information to the web mistress at [ashlee@castroville.com](mailto: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, Hotel Alsace & Spa
- 02:** **Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. All Members invited!**  
**Anna Chavez, Girl Scouts of America**
- 05:** Fiorella Friday, live music, artisans, wine tasting and much more, 6-9pm.
- 06:** Hondo-D'Hanis/MV Rotary Golf Tournament, Alsatian Golf Club, 8am, (210) 387-1914
- 06:** Celebrate Deere Season, Tractor City, 10am-12pm, (830) 538-3451.
- 06:** Grand Opening of Stephanie's Salon & Spa, New Location, 1101 Fiorella St., All Day, (830) 931-2400
- 06:** Ribbon Cutting for Eatza Pizza, 706 Hwy 90 E, 3pm, (830) 538-9350
- 10:** Monthly After Hours Mixer, Hotel Alsace & Spa Resort, 5-8pm, (830) 538-3200
- 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
- 13:** Market Trail Days, Houston Square, 9am-4pm, (830) 741-2313
- 13:** Wild Game Dinner, Koenig Park, 4pm-7pm, (830) 931-2826
- 13:** MV AFJROTC Golf Tournament, Alsatian Golf Club, 12 noon, (210) 421-5099
- 13-14:** Bluebonnet Walk, Shooting Star Museum, 11am to 5pm, (210) 386-6038
- 14:** Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! (830) 931-3837
- 17:** **St. Patrick's Day!!**
- 20-21:** Bluebonnet Walk, Shooting Star Museum, 11am to 5pm, (210) 386-6038
- 21:** Relay for Life Car Show, Lundquist Chevrolet, 9am-5pm, (210) 508-9073
- 24:** WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
- 27:** Irish Jig, Braden Keller Community Center, 7pm, (210) 313-4714
- 27-28:** Bluebonnet Walk, Shooting Star Museum, 11am to 5pm, (210) 386-6038

## Get your Business Listed in the 2010 Membership Directory

For those of you that may be new to the Chamber, each year we publish a Membership Directory which is handed out to all current members as well as members who join throughout the year.

We are currently working on the 2010 Directory and we don't want your business to be left out. Only members who have paid their 2010 dues will be listed in this

year's directory.

Second invoices have now been sent out to those who have not paid for 2010. If you have not received an invoice, please call us at (830) 538-3142.

Current member rates are as follows: Business-\$100, Individual-\$40, Couple-\$50, Non-Profit-\$40 and Over 65-\$25.

If you are not a current Chamber member and would like to find out more about what the chamber has to offer you, please contact us today or check out the Chamber page at [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com). There you can review our benefits and download a membership application.

So don't let your business be left out, send in your 2010 membership dues today!

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## Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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**We're on the web**

**[www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com)**

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### *Business of the Month: Castro Colonies Heritage Association*

Let's take a step back in time and learn a little about our Medina County history, a history that is rich in culture and heritage. Wondering who you should ask about this history? None other than the Castro Colonies Heritage Association.

This group, which has been around since 1975, was formed by individuals who were interested in preserving the history of the original Castro Colonies: Castroville, Quihi, Vandenburg and D'Hanis.

Through the efforts of this group, most of the early homes from the 1840s and 50s have been identified and honored. Most of these homes can be found on the historic walking tour today.

Over the years, this group has also assisted with the organization of group trips to Alsace, France, where many of the first Medina County residents came from. They have

hosted many Alsatians visiting Texas and Medina County and played an active role in the twinning of the cities ceremonies which have taken place in both Castroville and D'Hanis.

In the late 70s, the group wanted to capture some of the favorite recipes of the descendents of the original settlers. They published "Old Favorite Receipts," a book full of recipes and folklore which can still be purchased today.

Castro Colonies, or CCHA as it is known, has been very instrumental in publishing and reprinting several other books that are important to Medina County History. These include "Let's Celebrate;" "Castroville and Henri Castro, Empresario," by Julia Waugh; "Texas Pioneer," by August Santleben; and Father Cyril Kuehne's "Ripples from Medina Lake."

It would have to be said that

one of the most instrumental books CCHA has published was the "History of Medina County," completed in 1983. This two-year long project features 600 pages of family histories and interesting stories about Medina County. This book took countless hours to compile and many members of the organization worked long and hard to get as much historical information in the book as possible.

The group is currently working on a new edition of this book and they are accepting updated family information and any historical information not already included in the book. They will be accepting information until April 30th so if you have something that you feel should be included, be sure to contact them.

Today, the group has been working hard to address the restoration, preservation and

development of the Biry House Property where they one day hope to operate a museum featuring historical Alsatian and Medina County pieces.

If you are interested in joining CCHA and have an interest in the culture and heritage of the Castro Colonies, please contact them today to find out how you can help!

**[castrocolonies@swbell.net](mailto:castrocolonies@swbell.net)**