

City of

# CASTROVILLE

## Monthly Newsletter

March 2016



### BE AWARE OF ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

The City of Castroville has ordinances intended to protect the rights and privileges of all residents of Castroville. To help people be more aware of our City Ordinances, we're highlighting many of them in upcoming newsletters.

#### **Ordinance 58-62: Weeds; Trash; Junk; Other Debris**

All property owners and residents are responsible for maintaining their lots, including adjacent rights-of-way, from becoming a health hazard, fire hazard, or a nuisance to the public. Therefore, all lots must be free, from public view, of down timber or brush, logs, decaying vegetables, trash, open garbage, animal remains, and other unsavory items. Also, all weeds and grass must not exceed 12 inches in height.

#### **Ordinance 106-131: Junked Vehicles**

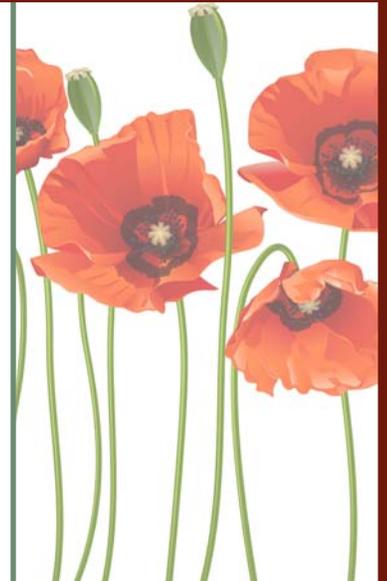
Any vehicle that does not have a current registration or is wrecked, dismantled, or discarded is considered a junked vehicle. The vehicle must be fixed, placed in a garage (or similar structure), or removed from the location. Placing a tarp over the vehicle does not fix the issue.

To read more about these and other city ordinances please visit the Ordinance page on the City website at <http://castrovilletx.gov/Ordinances>.

### 4TH ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT

The Castro Colonies Heritage Association invites you to the 4th Annual Casino Night on April 9, 2016, at 6pm for food, casino games, silent auction, and fun! All proceeds go toward the restoration of the Castro Colonies Living History Center at 309 Paris St.

The event is being held at 1201 Fiorella St. in Castroville, and tickets are \$50. For questions please call Mary King at 210-854-9794 or Dianne Keeton at 210-601-1944.



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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Daylight Savings Time is March 13th.
- It's time to renew your flag subscriptions!
- City Offices will be closed for Good Friday & Easter.
- The Library will have extra activities during Spring Break.

City of Castroville  
1209 Fiorella St.  
Castroville, Texas 78009  
(830) 931-4070



The Biry-Ahr House restoration began in February 2016.

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## BIRY-AHR HOUSE RESTORATION

The City of Castroville and the Castro Colonies Heritage Association (CCHA) announced that construction started on the restoration of the Jacob Biry – Steven Ahr Historic House on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.

The Biry-Ahr house restoration is the 1st Phase of the planned Castro Colonies Living History Center that is intended to present the culture and history of the Castro Colonies of Castroville, Quihi, Vandenburg, and D'Hanis that were established in Medina County, Texas from 1844 through 1847. The Center is being developed and maintained under a corporative agreement between the CCHA and the City of Castroville and is planned to include: restoration of the Jacob Biry / Steve Ahr historic home into a living history museum; restoration of the existing historic dogtrot cabin into a living history museum; construction of a new Visitor Center / Museum Building

Plans for the Biry-Ahr House include using artifacts and historic furnishing from area families to present the story of the Castro Colonies. Interpretative displays and interactive programs are intended to convey the colonization story and early history of the development of the Medina County area. There is also intent that the Center can serve as a repository of genealogy records of the Castro immigration families. Area families interested in this program can contact Mary King with the CCHA for additional details at 210-854-9794

For the full press release visit: <http://castrovilletx.gov/pressreleases>

## DID YOU KNOW...

On February 15, 1842, Henri Castro, an empresario of the Republic of Texas, received contracts for two grants of land on which he was to establish 600 families. [...]

The colony suffered from Indian depredations, cholera, and the drought of 1848, but population increased sufficiently for the formation of Medina County in 1848. The present towns of Castroville, D'Hanis, Quihi, and Vandenburg were founded by the colonists. "



Portrait of Henri Castro. Information provided by: Handbook of Texas Online, Curtis Bishop, "Castro's Colony," accessed March 04, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/uec01>.

## ZIKA VIRUS INFORMATION

Zika virus disease (Zika) is a disease caused by Zika virus that is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito.

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes).

The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected.

Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

**As of March 2, 2016, there have been no reported cases of Zika illness initiating within the U.S.**

For more information on Zika, please visit the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

## HELP PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM MOSQUITOS

Female mosquitoes lay several hundred eggs on the walls of water-filled containers. Eggs stick to containers like glue and remain attached until they are scrubbed off. When water covers the eggs, they hatch and become adults in about a week.

- Adult mosquitoes live inside and outside.
- They prefer to bite during the day.
- A few infected mosquitoes can produce large outbreaks in a community and put your family at risk of becoming sick.

### Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Community from Mosquitoes

1. Eliminate standing water in and around your home:
  - Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers. Check inside and outside your home.
  - Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.
  - For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
2. If you have a septic tank, follow these steps:
  - Repair cracks or gaps.
  - Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
3. Keep mosquitoes out of your home:
  - Use screens on windows and doors.
  - Repair holes in screens.
  - Use air conditioning when available.

For more information on Mosquito Prevention, please visit the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/mosquitocontrol.html>



# Library News

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### March 2016

14th: Great Courses: The World's Greatest Geological Wonders: 36 Spectacular Sites @ 6:30 pm

15th: Lego Party from 2-4 pm

15th: Family Movie: *The Cat in the Hat* @ 4 pm

16th: Storytime @ 10:30 am

17th: Librarian's Lunchtime Book Club: *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer from 11:30 am - 1 pm

17th: Art Party from 2-4 pm

19th: Lego Club (Registration Required, call the library for more information.)

21st: Great Courses: The World's Greatest Geological Wonders: 36 Spectacular Sites @ 6:30 pm

22nd: Growing up Wild (Registration Required, call the library for more information.)

22nd: Family Movie: *Hop* @ 4 pm

23rd: Storytime @ 10:30 am

25th - 27th: The Library will be Closed.

28th: Great Courses: The World's Greatest Geological Wonders: 36 Spectacular Sites @ 6:30 pm

29th: Family Movie: *Goosebumps* @ 4 pm

30th: Storytime @ 10:30 am

### Special Upcoming Programs

April 10th - 16th: National Library Week, Libraries Transform

April 15th: Murder Mystery at the Library

April 29th: Open Mic Night

May 21st: National Read-a-thon Day & Summer Kick Off Party

### Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Castroville Public Library meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Library. We're always looking for new members to get involved and support the library!

### Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board has two open alternate positions available. Please call the Debra Howe at City Hall, (830) 931-4070, to see how to apply to become a board member.



Library Staff celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd in conjunction with Read Across America.

## MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor, Jeff Gardner	210-557-6169	mayor@castrovilletx.gov
Mayor Pro Tem, District 5, Victor Ortiz Jr.	830-538-3687	district5@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 1, Jesse Mendoza	830-538-9362	district1@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 2, Kyle L. McVay	830-538-2630	district2@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 3, Phil King	210-355-6546	district3@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 4, Eric Cherry	210-391-6924	district4@castrovilletx.gov

## CITY COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

### City Council

Mar. 8th at 8:30am  
Mar. 22 at 6:00pm

### Library Advisory

Mar. 9th at 6:30pm

### Parks

Mar. 15th at 6:30pm

### Planning & Zoning

Mar. 9th at 6:30pm

### Historic Landmark Commission

Mar. 15th at 6:30pm

### Airport

Mar. 5th at 9:00am

Meeting dates and times may change. Check the city's website for up-to-date information.  
<http://castrovilletx.gov/AgendaCenter>

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Administrator, Marie Gelles	830-931-4070	marie.gelles@castrovilletx.gov
City Secretary, Debra Howe	830-931-4070	debra.howe@castrovilletx.gov
Community Dev. Director, Robert Koimn	830-931-4090	robert.koimm@castrovilletx.gov
Economic Dev. Director, Claudia Mora	830-931-0234	claudia.mora@castrovilletx.gov
Library Director & PIO, Regina Reed	830-931-4095	regina.reed@castrovilletx.gov
Police Chief, Chris Filline	830-931-2222	chris.filline@castrovilletx.gov
Public Works Director, Lawrence Heinrich	830-931-4090	larry.heinrich@castrovilletx.gov

24 HOUR UTILITY EMERGENCIES (830) 931-4091