



## DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

# CASTROVILLE PARKS SHINE WITH NEW AWARDS AND AMENITIES!



We're thrilled to share some exciting news about our Parks Department! Recently, Go Medina honored our city with two prestigious awards: Best City Park and Best RV Park in Medina County. This recognition highlights the incredible efforts our team puts into creating inviting and vibrant spaces for our community. And we're not stopping there! The Parks Department has also added some fantastic new amenities at our Regional Park, including freshly installed basketball hoops and newly painted pickleball lines on the tennis court, making it a perfect spot for all ages to stay active. Thank you for supporting our parks and helping us make Castroville a wonderful place to live, work, and play!



## Watch your water consumption: Winter Averaging Begins with November 10th bill

Conserving water during the months of October thru January can lower your monthly sewer charge!

### *What is winter averaging?*

Winter averaging is a method developed to give you the best possible break on sewer billing cost. This method takes the water consumption used during the meter reading cycles from *October (November bill) to January (February bill)* as the basis for billing sewer charges throughout the year. We eliminate the highest of the four months, then average the remaining three months to determine how the rate will be calculated.

We use winter averaging to determine each individual resident's rate. This rate will begin on the March 10, 2024, bill and will be your rate through February 10, 2025, bill.

If you watch your water consumption/usage, then you can reduce your sewer bill.

October usage  
on November bill

November usage  
on December bill

December usage  
on January bill

January usage on  
February bill



Lock your vehicle at all times. Most vehicle burglaries occur with unlocked cars.



Always park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings when walking to your car.



Avoid leaving packages or valuables on your car seat. Lock them in the trunk or out of sight.

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Castroville Police Department



If you're expecting packages, arrange for delivery to a secure location or a package locker.



Shop on trusted websites and avoid clicking on suspicious links or emails.



Crowded stores make it easier for pickpockets. Always be aware of your belongings.



To the Castroville Community. We all wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We will be providing some activities for all ages during the Winter School Break. Please call us with any questions.

Our Book Groups will not be meeting in December. They will resume in January. Please call or check the city website for the January title.

### **Needle Group**

Every Monday from 10:00 - 12:00

Bring your projects, and learn from others

### **Toddler Story Time**

Every Wednesday at 10:30

### **Dungeons and Dragons**

December 5th and 19th from 5:30 - 8:30. Must be 16+ to sign up. Call 830-931-4095 to register.

### **Magic the Gathering**

December 12th from 5:30 - 8:30. Must be 16+ to sign up. Call 830-931-4095 to register.

### **Special Magic the Gathering Session**

December 27th from 2:00 - 5:00. Must be 16+ to sign up. Call 830-931-4095 to register.

### **After School Crafts**

December 11th from 3:30 - 5:00. Ages 6 - 10. Call 830-931-4095 to register.

### **Mancala**

December 27th. Ages 9 - 15. Call 830-931-4095 to register.

### **Zen Tangle Coloring Time**

December 28th from 10:00 - 12:00. Must be 10+ Call to register at 830-931-4095

## **A VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE IN THE SKIES**



This Veterans Day, November 11, 2024, Castroville Municipal Airport became the center of a heartfelt celebration as Dream Flights honored local San Antonio veterans with an experience to remember. The nonprofit organization brought their iconic WWII-era Boeing Stearman biplanes to town, offering veterans the chance to soar in open-cockpit planes reminiscent of aviation's golden era. With each 15-minute flight, passengers not only relived the thrill of flight but also felt the gratitude of a community that deeply values their service.



The day was filled with smiles, handshakes, and stories as residents gathered to watch the biplanes lift off against the Texas sky. Dream Flights' mission to honor those who served came alive in a meaningful way, with Castroville proudly hosting this unique tribute. It was a moment of shared gratitude and reflection, reminding us all of the sacrifices made by our veterans and the importance of saying thank you.



### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mayor - Darrin Schroeder  
210.232.4737

District 1 - Sheena Martinez  
830.931.1328

District 2 - Paul Carey  
210.710.4861

District 3 - Phil King  
210.355.6546

District 4 - David Merz, Jr.  
618.406.2940

District 5 - Herb Dyer  
830.931.6354



# A MESSAGE FROM ANIMAL SERVICES OF CASTROVILLE

As the winter months and the holiday season are approaching, we just wanted to take the opportunity to inform Castroville Pet Parents about pet safety and things to be mindful of as we get closer to the holidays.

- Be mindful of cold weather. Be sure to bring in pets or have adequate shelter when temperatures dip low.
- Be mindful of what you give your pets for a special treat when having holiday meals

## Dog Friendly Holidays

Pet Poison Hotline

1-855-764-7661




### Dogs CAN Have

Carrots  
Celery  
Corn (no cob)  
Sweet Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Apples (No core/seeds)  
Pumpkin  
Rice  
Quinoa  
A Little Cheese  
Fresh Cranberries  
Turkey (no skin, fat or bones)

### Dogs CANT Have

Ham  
Chocolate  
Garlic  
Leeks  
Onions  
Grapes  
Raisins  
Raw Potatoes  
Mashed Potatoes  
Raw Dough  
Canned Cranberries  
Pre-made Desserts  
Pie Filling  
Stuffing

## How Cold is Too Cold?

°C	°F						
15°	60°	●	●	●	No evidence of risk. Have fun outside	Other Factors:	
12°	55°	●	●	●	Risk is unlikely. Have fun outside, but be careful.	+2 If wet weather is present	
10°	50°	●	●	●			
7°	45°	●	●	●			
4°	40°	●	●	●	Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.	-1 If Northern breed or heavy coat	
1°	35°	●	●	●			
-1°	30°	●	●	●	Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.	-1 If dog is acclimated to cold	
-4°	25°	●	●	●			
-6°	20°	●	●	●			
-9°	15°	●	●	●	Potentially life threatening cold. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.		
-12°	10°	●	●	●			
-15°	5°	●	●	●			
-17°	0°	●	●	●			

Source: adapted from The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) scales

## FRIENDS OF THE PARK MEETING NOTICE

There will not be a work session at the regional park on Saturday, December 21th.

The next session will be on <sup>Fo</sup>Saturday, January 18th 2025.



CITY OF CASTROVILLE  
PARKS & RECREATION

## CITY OF CASTROVILLE Holiday Office Hours

December 24 - 25 -- Closed

December 31 - January 1 -- Closed

For Utility Emergencies Call:  
830 - 931 - 4090

**Reminder:** Utility bills are due on December 25th, so please plan ahead. If you need to pay in person, you can use the kiosk outside the library, which is open 24/7. Alternatively, you can make your payment in person on December 26th without any late fees. Payments made after the 26th will have a late charge.

[www.castrovilletx.gov](http://www.castrovilletx.gov)



## MAYOR'S CORNER



[mayor@castrovilletx.gov](mailto:mayor@castrovilletx.gov)

# Did the Letter About Zoning Changes Worry or upset you too? Lets Clear Things Up.

Hello neighbors,

I wanted to take a moment to address a letter many of you may have received recently about the upcoming changes to our city's zoning ordinances. The letter includes language that is required by Texas State Law:

*"The City of Castroville is holding a hearing that will determine whether you may lose the right to continue using your property for its current use. Please read this notice carefully."*

I know that wording sounds alarming, and I acknowledge that it can be downright infuriating, but Texas State law does require it (see Sec. 211.006. of Local Government Code). The good news is that none of the proposed changes will reduce your rights or uses currently allowed under our existing code. Another concern I heard was that people were worried their neighboring city lots might be developed into apartments or other uses that could disrupt their peaceful living; however, this is not being considered.

So, what **IS** happening? The City of Castroville is modernizing its ordinances, as we must do regularly, but with the goal of keeping Castroville true to itself while planning thoughtfully for our future.

What is **NOT** happening? In the face of all the people and companies who are trying to build in Castroville, I and your city council want to ensure we don't ruin the integrity of this city and turn it into "anywhere USA" – which is harder and harder as our State Legislature continues to erode our ability to control that. What I hear most often from nearly everyone in Castroville is, "Don't change my city, my neighborhood, and definitely not the area around me." Your city staff and council are dedicated to using every legally available method to control this and are working to align our city codes with the way the city currently exists. To do this well, we need your input.

To make sure everyone has a chance to learn about these updates and discuss the challenges, we're hosting two more public events this month:

- Community Workshop: December 10th, 3:00–8:00 p.m. at the Landmark Inn
- Planning & Zoning Commission Workshop: December 11th, 6:30–8:0 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers

If you'd like to explore the proposed changes, visit our online portal at [castroville.mysocialpinpoint.com](https://castroville.mysocialpinpoint.com).

Still have questions? Feel free to contact Breana Soto, our Community Development Director, at 830-931-4090 or [Breana.soto@castrovilletx.gov](mailto:Breana.soto@castrovilletx.gov). You can also reach out to myself or any of the city council members. You can find our contact information at <https://www.Castrovilletx.gov/2151/City-Council>

Let's work together to shape Castroville's future while preserving what makes our town such a special place to call home. I look forward to hearing from you as we plan our future together.

Warm regards,  
Darrin Schroeder  
Mayor of Castroville

