

the little Alsace of Texas
CASTROVILLE
★ TEXAS ★



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY HELPERS WEEK WITH ANIMAL SERVICES



A big thank you to First Baptist Church for hosting Mother's Day Out and Community Helpers Week, where our Animal Services team shared their work with local children. The kids enjoyed meeting Fred, our TNR Ambassador, and had a surprise encounter with Randy the Trash Pandy, a sneaky raccoon who was safely caught and released! Our Animal Services team continues to do fantastic work in the community, educating residents and ensuring the safety and well-being of both people and animals. Their dedication helps foster a greater understanding of local wildlife and responsible pet care



**Celebrate
POETRY**

WITH A NIGHT DEDICATED TO THE MAGIC OF WORDS AND THE BEAUTY OF EXPRESSION CELEBRATING THE DIVERSE TAPESTRY OF POETRY. JOIN US FOR A POETRY READING. BRING YOUR OWN ORIGINAL POETRY OR READ YOUR FAVORITE

MARCH 21 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
All ages welcome
802 London St. Castroville TX 830-931-4095



**Brush & Bulk Trash
Pickup Schedule Change**
Beginning March 1, collection
will begin on the FOURTH
Monday of the month.
Scan the QR Code for the
updated schedule!

Everyone is Invited!



To the Friends of the Castroville Regional Park (FCRP)

2025 Annual Meeting and Membership Drive

Friday, March 28th

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Castroville Regional Park Rec Hall

Come and meet us and get to know who we are,
what we do and how you can help!!

If you have any questions, call 830 931 4176

DOOR PRIZES

1

PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO lazyh@sbcglobal.net

CASTROVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The long-awaited Castroville Community Center at Regional Park is officially moving forward, bringing us one step closer to a vibrant new space. After years of careful planning and coordination, we are thrilled to announce that the pre-construction kick-off meeting will take place on March 6, 2025, at the USDA Regional Office in Seguin, TX. Following this meeting, construction is set to begin within four to six weeks, with completion scheduled for April 2026.

This multi-purpose facility will serve as a hub for community gatherings, recreational activities, and public events, enriching the quality of life for all Castroville residents. The project's journey has been one of persistence and dedication, ensuring that every step meets regulatory and financial requirements.

With a \$1.7 million reimbursement grant awarded to the City of Castroville in January 2023, this project was a significant investment into our community. Additionally, the City of Castroville has committed over \$400,000 from its general fund reserves to ensure the project moves forward smoothly until completion.

In June 2024, City Council awarded the construction contract to Frontera Construction for \$1,950,000 reinforcing our commitment to bringing this much-needed facility to our residents while carefully managing project costs.

A Timeline of Progress

- Early 2021:** Initial planning for the community center began.
- March 2022:** The City sought congressional funding with Congressman Tony Gonzales.
- January 2023:** The City secured \$1.7 million in federal funding.
- February 2023 – Present:** City staff worked closely with the USDA, following detailed steps including environmental inspections, public notices, and contracting with engineers and architects.
- August 2023:** City Council selected LPA as the project's architect/engineer.
- September 2023:** The final building design was approved.
- October 2023 – January 2024:** The project was advertised for bids twice due to only receiving one initial bid.
- April 2024:** The existing pool building was demolished to make way for the new construction.

June 11, 2024: City Council awarded the construction contract to Frontera Construction for the amount of \$1,950,000.

June 14, 2024: The USDA issued a Letter of Conditions, introducing additional unforeseen requirements that delayed the start of construction.

Despite the unanticipated delays, City staff has worked tirelessly alongside LPA, Frontera Construction, the USDA, and various consultants to meet the necessary requirements to keep the project moving forward. The USDA has explained that its agency had been working to reduce project requirements nationwide since 2021, but an internal miscommunication resulted in the additional, unforeseen requirements for the City's project, causing the delay.

Thankfully, all these challenges have now been resolved, and we are full steam ahead towards groundbreaking. We know the anticipation has been building, and we appreciate your patience as we navigate this process. Castroville is on its way to having a fantastic new community space that will serve generations to come!

Thank You

To all of our donors for supporting the Castroville Public Library and making the poetry event possible --

Upmore Homes
Castroville State Bank
Cheri Haby
Security State Bank
Castroville BBQ
Walmart
Mc Knight Title
Alsatian Golf Course
All Local
Paris Street Plant Shop
Authentique Performing Arts
Alamo Area Veterinary Clinic
Ahrs Plant Shop
Dog Haus Grooming
House of Funky Chunky Jewels
Blooms and Blossoms

Tartan Construction
Hill Top Hotel
Hill Country Cider House
Rainbow Theater
Castroville Chamber of Commerce
Firebrand Pottery
Magnolia Filling Station
LT Mesquite Brew Haus
Ahrs Plant Shop
Elevate on Fiorella
Medina Hospital
Ranch Nutrition
Dorn Michelle
Harzheim Properties
Dough Station
Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk
Made From the Heart
Steven Hoog
R&J Handiworks



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor - Darrin Schroeder
210.232.4737

District 3 - Phil King
210.355.6546

District 1 - Sheena Martinez
830.931.1328

District 4 - David Merz, Jr.
618.406.2940

District 2 - Paul Carey
210.710.4861

District 5



SERVICE IN ACTION: HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Neighbors,

Last month, I encouraged everyone to stay informed and get involved in our community. This month, I want to take that a step further and highlight some fantastic ways you can get involved and make a real impact! Castroville thrives because of the dedication and passion of its residents, and there are numerous opportunities for you to contribute your time and talents.

Castroville Public Library

Our library isn't just a place to check out books—it's a hub for learning, connection, and community events.

Volunteers are key to keeping these programs strong, and we'd love to have you join us! Here's how you can help:

- Assisting with Library Programs: Help organize and run events such as story times, book clubs, and educational workshops.
- Join Friends of the Library: Support the library through fundraising, organizing book sales, and promoting library services.
- Summer Reading Program: Be part of encouraging local youth to discover the joy of reading!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Beth Farley at beth.farley@castrovilletx.gov or call 830-931-4095.

Parks and Recreation

Our parks are some of the best parts of our city, and keeping them clean, safe, and enjoyable takes teamwork.

Here's how you can help:

- Participating in Park Clean-Up Sessions: Join us on the third Saturday of each month for clean up projects, these sessions involve tasks suitable for all ages and abilities, from trail maintenance to litter collection.
- Joining the Friends of Castroville Regional Park: This non-profit organization focuses on the preservation and enhancement of our park through events, fundraising, and special projects.
- Adopting a Trail: Commit to maintaining a section of our trails for a year—a great activity for families or groups

To get involved, contact the Parks Department at 830-931-0033 or visit the city's website for more details.

City Boards and Commissions

If you want to have a say in how our city grows and develops, consider joining one of our boards or commissions:

- Historic Landmark Commission: Help preserve Castroville's rich historical heritage.
- Library Advisory Board: Assists in developing library policies and programs.
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Provides input on the development and maintenance of our parks and recreational facilities.
- Planning and Zoning Commission: Plays a crucial role in city planning and land use decisions.

Serving on these boards is a meaningful way to contribute to our community's growth and well-being. Typically two years, and applications are available for download or can be picked up at City Hall. For more information, please

contact our city secretary at debra.howe@castrovilletx.gov.

Friends Groups

Several organizations in our community work tirelessly to preserve and enhance key landmarks. Consider joining:

- Friends of the Landmark Inn – Support the preservation and programming at this historic site.
- Friends of the Airport – Help promote and support Castroville Municipal Airport initiatives.
- Friends of the Regional Park – Assist in the enhancement and upkeep of our beloved park.

Community Events and Organizations

Looking for one-time volunteer opportunities? There are plenty of ways to get involved throughout the year!

- 4th of July Celebrations: The Chamber of Commerce seeks volunteers for event setup, parade coordination, and activities. To help, contact the Chamber at (830) 538-3142.
- Join the Castroville Chamber of Commerce! – The Chamber connects businesses and residents through networking, events, and community initiatives.
- Local Non-Profits and Churches: Many organizations in and around Castroville rely on volunteers for various activities.
- Petunia's Rescued Friends: Help our four-legged friends through fostering, adoption, or donations to support animal rescue efforts.
- Find More Opportunities: Websites like JustServe.org list volunteer opportunities in our area.

Annual events

Castroville has a vibrant lineup of events throughout the year, and there are plenty of ways to get involved:

- 4th of July Celebrations: The Chamber of Commerce is looking for volunteers to help with event setup, parade coordination, and activities. If you'd like to lend a hand, contact the Chamber at (830) 538-3142.
- Castroville has a vibrant lineup of events throughout the year:
- St. Louis Day – A beloved annual celebration bringing people together for food, music, and fun.
- Alsatian Festival – A unique event celebrating Castroville's Alsatian heritage.
- Founders Day – Honoring the rich history and pioneers of our town.
- Easter Egg Hunt in the Park – A favorite springtime tradition for families and kids of all ages!

Giving back to our community isn't just about making a difference—it's also about meeting new people, building connections, and taking pride in the place we call home. Whether you volunteer for a day or a year, your time and effort are truly appreciated.

Thank you for all you do to make Castroville an incredible place to live, work, and play!

Your neighbor and advocate,

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor of Castroville



CASTROVILLE CARES

COMMUNITY PROPERTY TAX & GROWTH FORUM

Understanding Property Tax and
Property Tax Savings

AGENDA:

- Why property taxes are important
- Understanding property taxes and new tax laws
- Reasons to protest your property taxes
- Develop knowledge of the protest process—be your own advocate
- Learn key tips on how to achieve best results when protesting your taxes
- Learn about utility discounts for Senior Citizens

SPEAKERS:



GARY RIVAS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
SWBC Ad Valorem
Tax Advisors



MAYOR DARRIN
SCHROEDER
City of Castroville

**OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**



Wednesday, **March 26th**
Landmark Inn State Historic Site

Check-In: 6:00 PM
Meeting: **6:30–7:30 PM**

