

City of CASTROVILLE

Newsletter

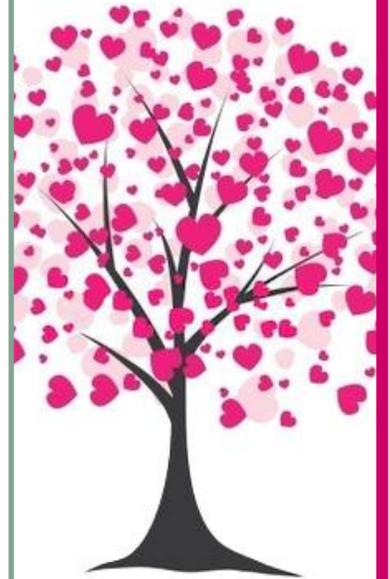
February 2017



Be a Good Neighbor: Follow the Code

The City of Castroville has noticed buildings are without proper address numbers as required by the City Code. Building numbering saves police, fire and ambulance personnel valuable time in responding to an emergency. All buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabetic letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high, with a minimum stroke width of a 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from a public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure.



HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION:

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Historical Landmark Commission has 2 Alternate positions open. Those with a knowledge of historic preservation are encouraged to apply.

To apply, visit the City website at:
castrovilletx.gov/2163/Boards-Commissions

Volunteers Needed

Castroville Regional Park Clean Up

Join us Every 3rd Saturday of the month from **8am to 11am**

For more info call Helen @ 830.931.2157

PROJECTS:

- Trim back plants in Butterfly Garden, and elsewhere in the park
- Repair steps on Cross Hill Trail
- Install two new Directional Signs
- Install Temporary Bridge on Creek Trail
- Replace a Memorial Bench on Cross Hill Trail
- Move Railroad Ties to new location

WHAT TO BRING: Limb loppers, hand pruners, shovels, rock rakes, leaf rakes, pitch forks, work gloves.

A great opportunity for students to earn service hours.

Biry-Ahr House Update

The Castro Colonies Heritage Association (CCHA), the City of Castroville Area Economic Development Council, The Friends of the Landmark Inn, the Castroville Conservation Society, the Texas Historic Commission and the Medina County Historical Commission are currently working together to jointly promote the Castro Colonies Living History Center, the Landmark Inn State History Site, the Historic Steinbach House and other historic sites in Medina County. The hope is these sites would become a history tourism venue, as well as an education opportunity to area citizens and to local school children.

In regard to the Castro Colonies Living History Center, the City of Castroville and the CCHA are working together on the restoration, development and maintenance of the Jacob Biry – Steven Ahr Historic House, located at 309 Paris Street in Castroville. 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 during the time period of 1844 and 1847. The Living History Center complex is planned to include the following three phases of development.

Phase 1: Restoration of the Jacob Biry / Steve Ahr historic home into a living history museum.

Phase 2: Restoration of the existing historic dogtrot cabin into a living history museum

Phase 3: Construction of a new Visitor Center / Archives / Museum Building.

In 2005, the CCHA and the City of Castroville developed a plan to acquire the museum property. In 2006, the City of Castroville purchased the property for \$40,000 with financial support from members of the community, individual members of the CCHA, and a grant from the Texas Historical Commission.

Subsequent to the purchase of the property, the CCHA has moved forward on stabilization of the house (\$10,000); planning and design (\$76,000); and construction of Phase 1 of the project (\$300,000), without any need of financial support from the City.

These costs are being funded by grants totaling \$137,409, and approximately \$200,000 from the CCHA's member donations, book sales and fund raising events. The next fund raising event is the 5th Annual Casino Night, to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017, at the Branden Keller Center in Castroville. Please contact Mary King at 210-854-9794 for information about this event. Also, the CCHA will be involved in the upcoming BigGiveSA2017 event to be held on May 4 to fundraise online for the Living History Center.

The construction renovation of the Biry-Ahr house and completion of Phase 1 of the complex should be completed within the next several months. At that time the design and construction of the interpretive displays within the Living History Home will proceed for an approximate cost of \$50,000. The future restoration of the existing historic dogtrot cabin into a living history museum and the construction of a new Visitor Center/Archive/Museum Building at the rear of the property will proceed upon availability of funds. The estimated cost of these two programs is \$500,000. The CCHA is actively soliciting grants and private donations for these projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Do I need a permit to install a fence?

Answer: Permits are not required for residential fences under 7 ft. tall. However, the fences must comply with the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance requirements as follows:

CZO, Article I, Section 12 (Fences, Walls, and Hedges)

Fences, walls, and hedges may be erected, maintained or grown along a lot line on residentially zoned property, or adjacent thereto within required yard areas, to heights not exceeding the following:

- 1) *Rear yards, except the portions of such yard areas which are within five (5) feet of required side yard areas of adjoining lots – six (6) feet.*
- 2) *Interior side yards, and portions of rear yards which are within five (5) feet of required side yard areas of adjoining lots – four (4) feet.*
- 3) *Front yards and street-side yards – four (4) feet, provided, however, that an amount not in excess of fifty (50) percent of the area of such a yard may be enclosed by a fence, wall or hedge not in excess of six (6) feet in height, provided further, however, that no portion of a fence, wall or hedge that is located within ten (10) feet of a driveway opening may exceed three (3) feet in height unless it is set back at least five (5) feet from the base building line of the street with which the driveway connects.*
- 4) *Where a lot line is adjacent to either non-residentially zoned property or a limited access highway, fences, walls, hedges, or shrubbery may be erected, placed, maintained or*

grown to a maximum of eight (8) feet in height.

Although a permit is not required for fences under 7ft. tall, the Community Development Department encourages residents to submit your fence plan for review prior to installation to ensure that it meets the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance requirements above.

Additional requirements may apply to fences on historic properties. If your property is historic, please contact the Community Development Department at 830-931-4090 prior to starting any work.



Warrant Round up 2017

The 2017 Great Texas Warrant Roundup starts in February. The City of Castroville along with over 300 other jurisdictions across Texas combine forces in what is believed to be the largest joint warrant round up of this type in Texas. The start date of the multi-jurisdictional warrant round up will be announced soon. The Warrant Roundup has two phases:



- **Phase 1 Warrant Calls:** This is considered a grace period. During this time, anyone who has outstanding warrants is encouraged to resolve their case without penalty of arrest.
- **Phase 2 The Enforcement Period:** During the roundup period, individuals will be brought to the court to address their outstanding warrants before a judge.

It is not too late to take care of outstanding warrants and avoid a visit from the authorities. Please contact the Municipal Court at **830.931.4089**

Municipal Airport



Airport Leasing Available

2 Hail Sheds - Each leasing for \$126/mo.

For more information call The Municipal Airport at **830.931.0234**.

The Castroville Municipal Airport has Jet Fuel!

Full service is available **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

After hours and weekends by appointment please call the

Airport @ 830.931.0234 or 830.538.4260.



Castroville Public Library Grand Re-Opening & Fundraiser

Thursday, February 16th @ 6:30 pm.

Featuring: Silent Auction, Community Honors, Refreshments & More!

Come show your Love for the Library!

To sponsor the event, donate to the auction or become a member of The Friends, please call 830.931.4095 or christina.reedy@castrovilletx.gov

Public Works

Backflow & Cross Connection Alert

Per City ordinance 2016-005, all backflow devices in the City need to be tested yearly. Letters have been sent to residents on record of having such devices. It is the residents' responsibility to assure the testing of their backflow devices and submit the proper documentation to the City of Castroville Public Works Department.

Once in receipt of the letter, residents have 30 days from that date to have this work performed. If proper documentation is not submitted within the 30 day period, a second letter will follow which could subject the recipient to a non-compliance fine. If you have a backflow device and have not received a letter, or have questions, please contact Cheryl Pralle at the City of Castroville Public Works Department at **830.931.4090** for further information.

Waterline Replacement Project -Work Planned for February

Areas in completion of installation are on Petersburg from Mexico to San Jacinto & Amelia from Houston to Petersburg.

New Areas to follow:

- Paris (from Mexico to Lorenzo)
- Lorenzo (from Paris to Hwy 90)
- San Jacinto (from Petersburg to Alamo)
- Alamo (from San Jacinto to Hwy 90)

Boring will be at Hwy 90 & Mexico and Hwy 90 & Geneva resulting in street closures of Mexico to Paris & Geneva to Petersburg.

Easter Weekend Reservations

Reservations for the Easter weekend celebration at Regional Park for April 14-15-16 of 2017 are in full swing. Tables are still available. Be sure to get your reservations in as soon as possible as spots fill up quickly. Payment is due at time of registration. You must reserve your areas in person at City Hall. For more information call: **830.931.4070**

Don't throw your used paint, motor oil, electronics or batteries in the trash! Have your unwanted home generated special materials collected from your home.



Call for home pick up: 1.800.449.7587 (Mon-Fri)

Visit: www.WMATYOURDOOR.COM

Email: ATYOURDOOR@WM.COM

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

- February 14 at 6:00 pm
- February 28 at 6:00 pm
- March 14 at 6:00 pm
- March 28 at 6:00 pm

Library Advisory

- February 8 at 6:30 pm
- March 8 at 6:30 pm

Parks

- February 21 at 6:30 pm
- March 21 at 6:30 pm

Planning & Zoning

- February 8 at 6:30 pm
- March 8 at 6:30 pm

Historic Landmark

- February 21 at 6:30 pm
- March 21 at 6:30 pm

Airport

- February 11 at 9:00 am
- March 11 at 9:00 am

Meeting dates and times may change. Check the city's website for up-to-date information.
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
Comm. Dev. Director, Gordon Browning	830-931-4090	gordon.browning@castrovilletx.gov
Economic Dev. Director, Claudia Mora	830-931-0234	claudia.mora@castrovilletx.gov
Finance Director, Vacant	830-931-4070	Vacant
Library Director Christina Reedy	830-931-4095	christina.reedy@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