

CITY OF CASTROVILLE  
*Little Alsace of Texas*  
1209 Fiorella Street



CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009  
(830) 931-4070  
(830) 931-6373

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M. Paul Mumbach  
Maire de Dannemarie  
1, place de l'Hôtel de Ville  
68210 DANNEMARIE  
ALSACE  
FRANCE

Greetings,

The citizens of Castroville, Texas, want to lend their voices to insure Alsace remains an independent region in France.

Alsace has a long and difficult history of being pulled between different countries and has seen much fighting, bloodshed and destruction, not unlike France itself. The name Alsace is recognized throughout the world because of its history, culture, wine, and proud, strong-willed people. We are very perplexed why the government of France would take an action to remove its identity. Would France allow someone to take its identity?

Castroville, Texas, is known throughout the United States and around the world as "The Little Alsace of Texas" because these same proud people of Alsace came here in 1844 and built a town out of the soil while enduring and overcoming hardships and the threat of attacks. These families also brought the language, culture and customs of Alsace; and this is thriving in Castroville today. Many original family names and homes proudly continue in our Little Alsace bearing witness to our bond of blood with you and our Alsatian heritage.

Castroville's continuing identity with the people of Alsace is strong. We are sister cities with Eguisheim and Ensisheim; and our tourist center is the Steinbach Haus. It was originally built in the 1600s in Wahlbach, France, and reconstructed here by the Alsatian people of France and the Alsatian people of Castroville. Thousands of visitors from every point of the globe visit the Steinbach Haus and come to understand the love shared between us and our unbreakable link with Alsace and with you.

The Castroville City Council believes the people of Alsace should be the ones to determine their future, and we are in strong support of their efforts to retain their identity as Alsatians and not be merged into a larger group where the name of Alsace will disappear into history.

To the citizens of Castroville, it is vitally important that Alsace continue as it is so we can continue to identify ourselves as the "Little Alsace of Texas." Please reconsider the long history of Alsace and the many contributions it has made to the history of France and of Texas.

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