Community Information

Ramona

Ramona

We invite you to explore the many attractions which make our community San Diego County's fastest growing unincorporated region. The lush high-desert scenery and the picturesque shapes of the mountains in San Diego County are all within view from the 'back-country' community of Ramona.

Ramona is known as the Gateway to San Diego North County's Inland Mountains is also known as the Valley of the Sun; located above the fog line and below the snow line.

Ramona citizens lined Main Street years ago with these beautiful eucalyptus trees. They were hand-watered when first planted during the summer months to keep them alive. Current Ramona citizens and visitors are reaping the beauty and shade of these magnificent trees. If you plan to stay the weekend consider taking advantage of the local lodging and dining options.

Ramona's own Guy B. Woodward Museum is open to the public. If you are interested in the Old West and/or the history of Ramona (once known as the "Turkey Capital of the World") spend an afternoon looking around this wonderful hometown museum. Geneva passed away last July, her son Ken W. is now the director and he may tell stories about Ramona and the people who added to this town's history.

Ramona is one of the oldest established communities in San Diego County and has become a magnet for Antique shops in the past few years. This phenonomen has caused many to call Ramona the Antique Capital of San Diego County.

Want a place to picnic, hike, or just play? Ramona has four great parks for you to enjoy.

If you feel like "A bad day fishing is better than the best day at the office!" then come take a day to enjoy Lake Sutherland Reservoir.
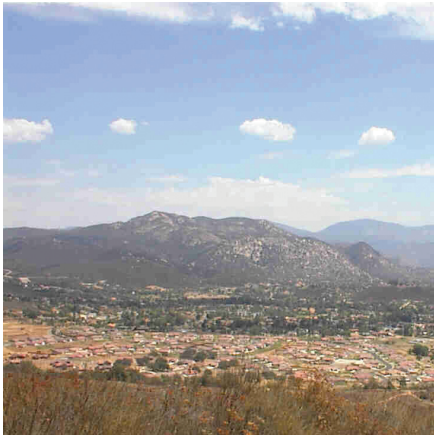
If golfing is your fancy then Ramona has two of the most challenging champi-onship courses you'll ever encounter.

Ramona is a horse-friendly community! While a lot of our neighboring communities are making it difficult for horseowners to house and ride their horses within city limits, Ramona prides itself in always remembering our rural heritage. More than a few current Ramona residents have moved "up the hill" because of our common-sense policy regarding horses.

One of the most famous photo-opportunities in Ramona is Hope Street's mailboxes. Each mailbox is unique and special (just like the people who own them) and has it's own story to tell -- some are new and shiny, some are old and weathered, some have seen El Nino, some are rusted while others are beautifully decorated.

Both Mount Woodson & Iron Mountain offers steep and challenging hikes for all adventurous people.

Main Street has all the shopping conveniences of a bigger city.

Schwaesdall Winery is family owned and operated producing estate bottled and cellared, classic European style red wines and traditional, California white wines.

History

Early Times

The current town of Ramona was founded in 1886, when a land speculation syndicate, headed by Milton Santee, "organized the Santa Maria Land & Water Company and acquired 3,200 acres (13 km2) for a townsite in the Santa Maria Valley and named it Ramona". Previously the area was known as Nuevo, and was dotted by a few ranches and homesteads. Settlement of the Ramona town site began in 1883 when Amos Verlaque built a store and post office on the wagon road to Julian, California. In 1886, Theophile Verlaque built the town's first house next to Amos' store. The Verlaque house, located at 645 Main Street in Ramona, is now home to the Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and its Guy B. Woodward Museum, and in 1991 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
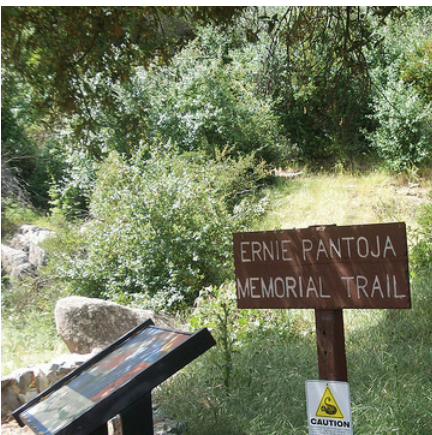
The Santa Maria Land & Water Company called its project "Ramona". When the name of the town changed from Nuevo to Ramona is subject to dispute. In The Glory Years, by Frank F. Pourade (1964, Copley Press, republished by the San Diego Historical Society), the author indicates that the Santa Maria Land & Water Company syndicate changed the name in 1886. However, the San Diego City and County Directory for 1886-87 lists the town as Nuevo. And the Ramona Town Hall website (http://www.ramonatownhall.com/) says this concerning the dedication of the building:

It was donated to the towns people of Nuevo, on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1894, by Augustus and Martha Barnett. Later that year, at the insistence of Milton Santee, the town was renamed Ramona, to capitalize on the popularity of the fictional character from the best seller by Helen Hunt Jackson.

Concerned about the plight of native Americans in southern California (and elsewhere), and inspired by her friend Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, Helen Hunt Jackson's novel Ramona was published in November, 1884. It was an instant success.

The Ramona Town Hall, now 113 years old, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. It has also been known as Town Hall of Nuevo, and Barnett Hall. The Hall was built on two lot donated by Milton Santee, who as noted above headed up the Santa Maria Land & Water Company syndicate. Augustus and Martha Barnett donated the $17,000 "to the towns people of Nuevo, on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1894." Ramona Town Hall was designed by architect William S. Hebbard, who later, with his partner, Irving Gill, "produced San Diego's best architecture until its break up in 1907". The building is one of the largest, and oldest, adobe structures in southern California. Photographs of William Hebbard and Ramona Town Hall may be viewed on this San Diego Historical Society page, and on the Ramona Town Hall

website.

As noted in this Ramona Home Journal article:

In the past, the Town Hall was home to Ramona's first high school. Classes met upstairs from 1894 to 1898. The town's first bank and first library also started in the building, and several religious groups met there before their churches were built. Other organizations that met in the Town Hall included Ramona Grange, Santa Maria Masonic Lodge, Ramona Pioneer Historical Society, Ramona Chamber of Commerce, Ramona Art Guild, Town Hall Players and Ramona Council of Arts, Unlimited. The Town Hall was used as a theater in the 1940s, with Harry Miles running the movie projector. It also was known as the community dance hall and the site of costume balls.

Recent History

On Mother's Day, May 13, 1973, Ramona entered the America national spotlight. 55 year old former tennis great turned hustler, Bobby Riggs, challenged the then 30 year old women's world number one player, Margaret Court, to a match. The match was staged at Ramona's San Diego Country Estates. Riggs won easily, 6-2, 6-1. He later lost to Billie Jean King in The Battle of the Sexes at the Houston, Texas, Astrodome, on September 20, 1973.

The Cedar Fire began in Ramona approximately 3 miles (5 km) east of the San Diego Country Estates area, on October 25, 2003. The fire would eventually consume 280,278 acres (1,134 km²), burn 2,820 buildings (including 2,232 homes), and take 15 lives. The Cedar Fire is the largest fire in California history.

The Witch Fire began near Ramona near the area called Witch Creek on October 21, 2007. As of October 24th, it had burned approximately 195,000 acres (790 km2) in San Diego County with over 640 homes destroyed, 250 damaged, and 12 firefighters injured according to the San Diego Union Tribune. Actual damage to the city of Ramona is unknown as of October 24 as the roads into the town are closed. On October 24th the Witch Fire merged with another fire called the Poomacha which had originated in the area of the La Jolla Indian Reservation. Along with more than 10 other fires burning in San Diego County at the same time, the Witch-Poomacha fire helped cause the largest mandatory evacuations in U.S. history, with over 500,000 people displaced as of October 24th.

On January 2006, Ramona Valley was designated the country's 162nd American Viticultural Area (AVA) by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, which recognized the area for its distinctive microclimate, elevation, and soil attributes.

Main Street

Old Main Street Ramona features plenty of shopping, various restaurants, a movie theater, our town museum, and Ramona's original Town Hall. If you plan to stay the weekend consider taking advantage of the local lodging options.

Ramona citizens lined Main Street years ago with these beautiful eucalyptus

trees. They were hand-watered when first planted during the summer months to keep them alive. Current Ramona citizens and visitors are reaping the beauty and shade of these magnificent trees.

Come to Ramona for a day drive from San Diego and visit the shops of Old Town Ramona...browse the antique stores, stop in to see a movie, relax over a chat and a cup of coffee or eat at one of our various restaurants. If you're adventurous, you can take many hiking trails all over the outskirts of town.

Old Town, Ramona

From 3rd Street to 10th Street is the area where merchants have chosen to preserve the buildings of Ramona's past. On this strip you will find Ramona's oldest commercial building. Built in 1883 and it is still in operation as a commercial business at 629 Main Street. You will also find several antique shops, the Ramona Town Hall which is over 100 years old, and the newly refurbished Mainstage Theatre which reopened in September of 2003.

Local Shopping

The West-end of Main Street houses the newer businesses.

Stater Brother's Center with Blockbuster Video, Rite-Aid, Ramona's Florist, Manzanita Press, Marketing Worx, Quiznos, Rubio's Fish Tacos and more.

Albertson's Center offers Sav-On Drugs, Water Depot, Hair Styling Shop, Donut Shop, Hallmark Shop, Nuevo Grill & Cantina, Bank of America, and more.

Kmart Center offers Radio Shack, Donut Shop, Hair Styling Shop, Subway, Taco Bell, Big O Tire of Ramona and Oil Changers.

Sun Valley Center is home of some of Ramona's oldest and most respected businesses. Orchards Marketplace, opened in 2001. Included in the mall is a pawn shop, stove shop,P&M Computers and liquor store with gas station and more.

Antiques

It's becoming known far and wide that the best place to shop for quality antiques is in Ramona. The number of shops, alone, draws treasure seekers and tourists to the town's rural atmosphere. Antique dealers from other areas are also making this a regular stop when they are out and about hunting for bargains.

Recreation

Parks
Collier Park

Collier Park is a day only picnic area that is perfect for families as groups. There are plenty of tables, good shade, play and grass areas, and tennis courts.

Dos Picos Park

Two words characterize Dos Picos Regional Park:
Oaks and mountains. Its name, Spanish for "two peaks," is derived from two prominent mountains nearby. In the shelter of these mountains, the small valley harbors a park filled with oak trees, some of them up to 300 years old. Dos Picos is surrounded by ranchland and steep rocky slopes, which help preserve its secluded atmosphere. The peaceful, shady park is particularly well-suited for campers and picnickers. It is located 46 miles northeast of San Diego.

Ramona Oaks Park

Ramona Oaks Park in San Diego Country Estates offers a great picnic area with plenty of tables and BBQ's.

There is a small stage area, playground, tennis, basketball, and many other activities to enjoy.

Golf

Mt. Woodson Golf Club

16422 North Woodson Drive / San Diego, CA 92065
760-788-3555 / fax: 760-788-3565
www.mtwoodson.com

San Vicente Inn & Golf Club

24157 San Vicent Road / Ramona, CA 92065
1-800-776-1289 / (760)789-8290
www.sanvicenteresort.com

Horses

Whether your interest in horses covers showing, breeding, hitting the trails, or just hitting the tack shops, Ramona embraces the equestrian lifestyle. It's not unusual to see riders and their mounts from one end of town to the other, any day of the week. And on parade days, Ramona boosts some of the prettiest mounts in the county! With numerous feed, tack, clothing, and even trailer sales in town, Ramona supports its resident horse owners.

Ramona Mainstage Theater

Ramona Mainstage Theatre will operate primarily as a performing arts facility, presenting a diverse range of live entertainment centering on theatrical performance, music, dance, comedy and celebrity appearances. With additional use as a venue for movies, film festivals, lectures, educational events, business gatherings, religious services, community events and other special events. www.ramonatheatre.com

Guy B. Woodward Museum

645 Main Street / Ramona, CA 92065
(760) 789-7644 / www.woodwardmuseum.org

Utilities

Cuyamaca Water District
760-765-1202
P O Box 609 / Julian CA 92036

Julian Community Service Dist (Water District)
760-765-0483
2656 Farmers Rd / PO Box 681 / Julian, CA 92036

Majestic Pines Community Service District
760-765-0532 / Emergency 1-800-790-9211
P O Box 266 / Julian CA 92036

Pine Hills Mutual Water Company
Office 760-765-1243 / Service: 760-765-053
P O Box 725 / Julian, CA 92036 4

Ramona Municipal Water District
760-789-1330 / Customer Service & Billing 760-788-2200
Information Hotline 760-788-2201
105 Earlham / P O Box 1829 / Ramona, CA 92065

San Diego Gas & Electric
24 Hr Toll Free 1-800-411-7343

Julian Trash Dump Site (Allied Waste)
Info 760-789-3410
500 Pleasant View Dr / East of Hwy 79

Ramona Landfill (The Dump)
760-789-3410
20630 Pamo, Rd. / Ramona, CA 92065

San Diego County Road Maintenance - Julian
760-765-0636
1524 Hwy 78 / Julian CA 92036

Education

Ramona Unified School District
720 9th Street / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-2000 / www.ramonausd.net

Elementary Schools
Barnett
23925 Couna Way / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-3500

Hanson
2520 Boundary Ave / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-2100

James Dukes
24908 Abalar Way / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-788-5060

Mt. Woodson
17427 Archie Moore Rd / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-788-5120

Ramona
415 8th Street / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-4400

Ramona Community School (K-12)
1010 Ramona Street / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-3600

Middle Schools
Olive Peirce
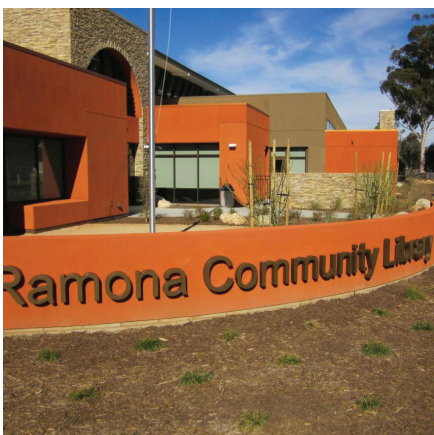1521 Hanson Lane / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-2400

High Schools
Future Bound
720 9th Street / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-2068

Montecito
720 9th Street / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-4300

Ramona High
1401 Hanson Lane / Ramona, CA 92065
Ph: 760-787-4000

Population and Housing Estimates
Ramona Community Planning Area

	Jan 1, 2021
Total Population	**35,399**
Household Population	35,221
Group Quarters Population	178
Persons Per Household	2.87

Housing and Occupancy

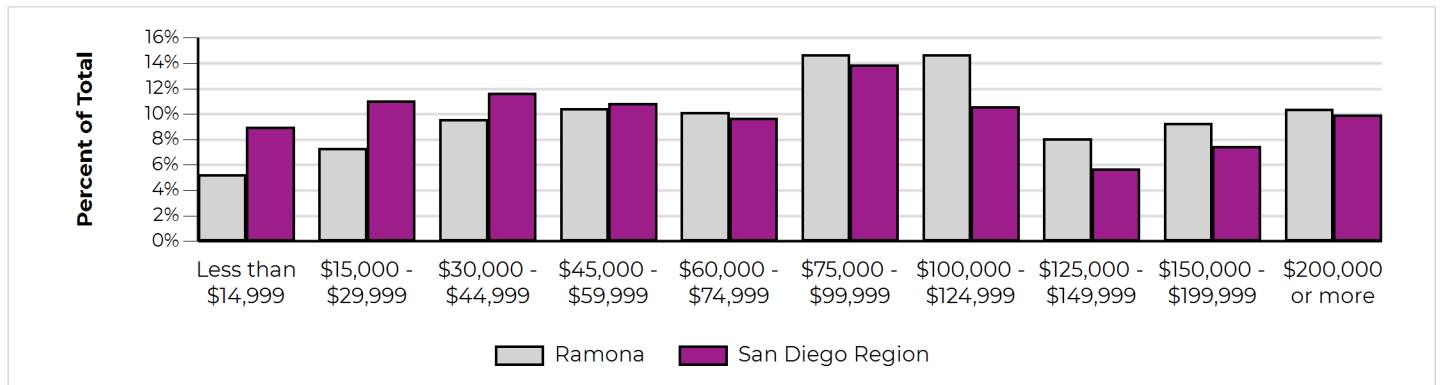|	Total Units	Households	Vacancy Rate
Structure Type	**12,905**	**12,274**	**4.9%**
Single Family - Detached	10,425	9,925	4.8%
Single Family - Attached	593	536	9.6%
Multi-Family	1,448	1,391	3.9%
Mobile Home and Other	439	422	3.9%

Household Income
Households by Income Category (2010 $, adjusted for inflation)

	Less than $15,000	$15,000-$29,999	$30,000-$44,999	$45,000-$59,999	$60,000-$74,999	$75,000-$99,999	$100,000-$124,999	$125,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000 or more
% of Total	5%	7%	10%	10%	10%	15%	15%	8%	9%	10%

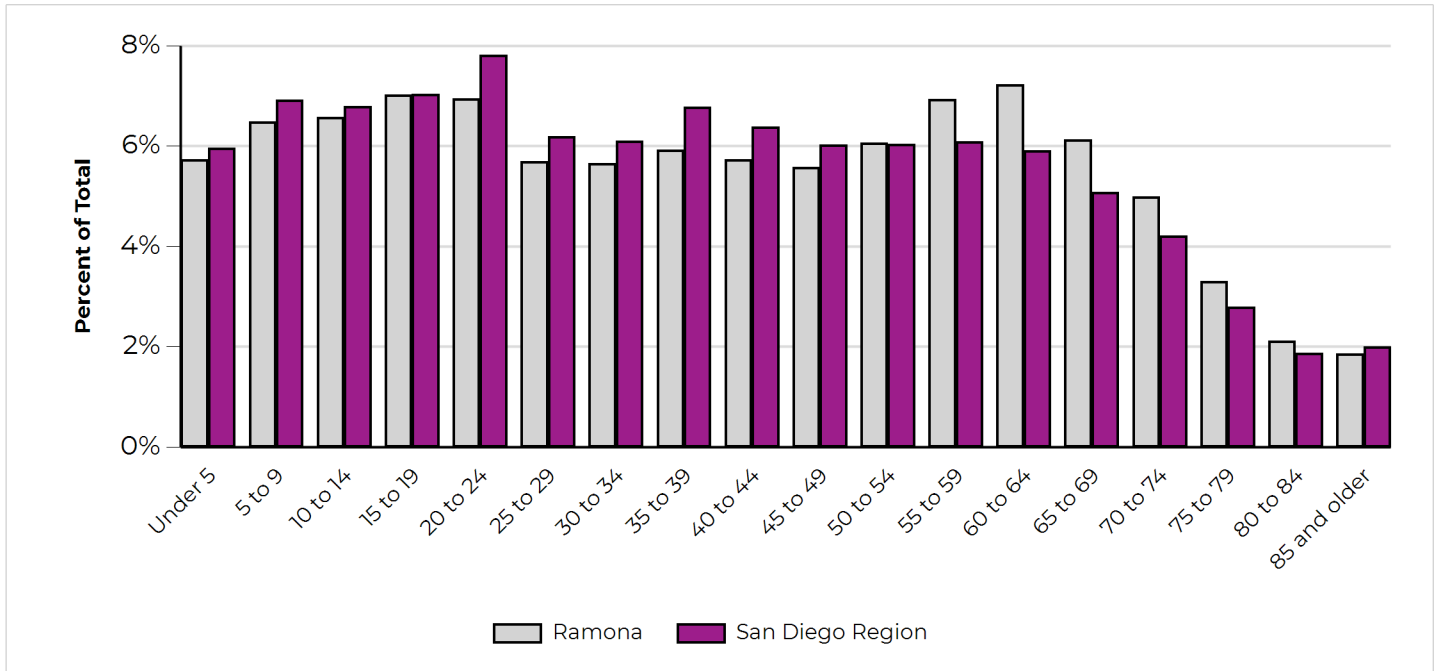| **Median Household Income**	2021
Adjusted for Inflation (2010 $)	$87,264
Not adjusted for inflation (current 2020 $)	$108,050

DATA SOURCES AND IMPORTANT ADVISORY:

SANDAG Population and Housing Estimates are derived from a composite of data sources, including the California Department of Finance (DOF) E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2022; the 2021 SANDAG Land Use and Housing Units inventory; the Census American Community Survey (ACS) Detailed tables; and the vintage 2020 DOF P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties.

Caution should be taken when using Population and Housing Estimates, especially for small areas of geography. Sampling error inherent with the data may materially impact the reliability of the estimates, resulting in a substantial margin of error. Additionally, conclusions should not necessearily be drawn about small differences between two or more estimates because they may not reflect statistically significant differences.

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
SANDAG
www.sandag.org

March 2, 2023
Ramona
Page 1 of 3

Population by Age and Sex

	Total	Male	Female	Percent Female
Total Population	**35,399**	**17,564**	**17,835**	**50%**
Under 5	2,031	993	1,038	51%
5 to 9	2,297	1,181	1,116	49%
10 to 14	2,329	1,181	1,148	49%
15 to 17	1,542	790	752	49%
18 and 19	946	493	453	48%
20 to 24	2,461	1,285	1,176	48%
25 to 29	2,014	1,046	968	48%
30 to 34	2,003	1,022	981	49%
35 to 39	2,098	1,075	1,023	49%
40 to 44	2,027	1,038	989	49%
45 to 49	1,974	974	1,000	51%
50 to 54	2,148	1,026	1,122	52%
55 to 59	2,455	1,208	1,247	51%
60 and 61	1,057	523	534	51%
62 to 64	1,501	722	779	52%
65 to 69	2,170	999	1,171	54%
70 to 74	1,767	879	888	50%
75 to 79	1,169	537	632	54%
80 to 84	751	346	405	54%
85 and older	659	246	413	63%
Under 18	8,199	4,145	4,054	49%
65 and older	6,516	3,007	3,509	54%
Median Age	39.9	38.7	41.3	N/A

Population by Age

Ramona / San Diego Region

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
SANDAG
www.sandag.org

March 2, 2023
Ramona
Page 2 of 3

Population by Race, Ethnicity and Age

| | Hispanic | Non-Hispanic | | | | |
		White	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Isl.	All Other
Total Population	**10,540**	**21,676**	**510**	**174**	**1,438**	**1,061**
Under 5	743	1,094	27	9	62	96
5 to 9	940	1,137	50	6	72	92
10 to 14	946	1,170	49	9	56	99
15 to 17	576	798	39	2	54	73
18 and 19	351	490	24	10	25	46
20 to 24	1,034	1,194	36	16	80	101
25 to 29	813	998	29	6	75	93
30 to 34	706	1,103	29	11	85	69
35 to 39	673	1,253	24	15	74	59
40 to 44	650	1,177	29	8	103	60
45 to 49	675	1,078	33	9	123	56
50 to 54	621	1,346	22	10	98	51
55 to 59	561	1,724	32	16	86	36
60 and 61	188	789	8	7	46	19
62 to 64	227	1,152	12	8	70	32
65 to 69	298	1,730	16	10	91	25
70 to 74	222	1,411	14	4	93	23
75 to 79	150	936	14	7	44	18
80 to 84	82	587	13	7	55	7
85 and older	84	509	10	4	46	6
Under 18	3,205	4,199	165	26	244	360
65 and older	836	5,173	67	32	329	79
Median Age	29.2	47.0	30.2	41.9	46.3	26.3

Source: SANDAG, Population and Housing Estimates, v2021
SANDAG
www.sandag.org

March 2, 2023
Ramona
Page 3 of 3