



Chamber of Commerce

Business and Community News

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JULY 2004

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Chamber asking for portion of TOT funds

The Ramona Chamber of Commerce has submitted an application and made a personal plea to the Board of Supervisors for a portion of the transient occupancy tax (TOT) monies collected in the county.

Chamber president Karen Clendenen and first vice-president Chuck DeMund talked to the supervisors on June 8. The board is expected to make its decision as to where the money goes some time in July.

"Our primary mission is to develop and maintain viable economic growth and promote our local businesses," they told the supervisors.

"In addition to the obvious reasons, local job growth may be the only solution to reducing traffic congestion and costs we incur because a very large number of our people have to commute 'down the hill' and back each day to work."

They said the Chamber has begun a "Buy Ramona" campaign, is pursuing making the town a "destination" rather than a place to pass through on the way to some place else and has taken the lead in an attempt



The Chamber office was all decked out in honor of Flag Day on June 14.

Photo by Dolores Garcia

to better health-care options locally, working with Palomar Pomerado Health Center toward this goal.

"Any clinic or diagnostic facility in Ramona will, of course, benefit residents of Julian, Borrego and other communities east of us as well," they noted.

The Chamber has had to adopt the section of Main

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Mixer

JULY

July 15 • 6 p.m.
Viejas Casino
5000 Willows Rd., Alpine

Please call the Chamber office
or Jeff Ruland at Sears, 788-8080,
to reserve your seat on the
Viejas Mixer bus

• • •

Rollover Jackpot
\$920

(for August Mixer)

Must be a Chamber member
and present in order to win



Karen Clendenen

Letter from the President

This year is already half over, and it's not too soon to give some thought to serving on the Chamber board next year. Seven of the 15 seats on next year's board will be open, and the election (in October) will be upon us relatively soon.

Since several people in the community have expressed various opinions to me in regards to the purpose of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce, I would like to summarize why we exist:

- To develop and maintain a climate that promotes economic growth (e.g., liaison to county government)
- To serve as a conduit for social interaction and relationship building for the business community (e.g., mixers, events, etc.)
- To provide outstanding leadership in community service (e.g., community-wide events, member activities outside the Chamber)

If you are interested in serving on our board of directors and would like additional information, our bylaws, as well as other information concerning director duties and responsibilities, are available in the Chamber office. Also, I'm always available to discuss any matter related

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Ramona Chamber of Commerce

960 Main Street
Ramona, California 92065
Telephone: (760) 789-1311
Fax: (760) 789-1317
E-mail: info@ramonachamber.com
Web site: ramonachamber.com

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce is to develop and maintain a climate for viable economic growth, to promote loyalty to, and networking for local businesses and to demonstrate an outstanding leadership role in our community.

Officers

President Karen Clendenen
Century 21-San Vicente, 787-3210
1st Vice President Chuck DeMund
DeMund Foundation, 788-1011
2nd Vice President Bill Jenkin
Farmers Ins., Ramona Vintners Cellars, 788-1388
Secretary Sharon Davis
Silk Decor Interiors, 788-7215
Treasurer Patrick Meskell
Edward Jones, 787-1113

Directors

Scott Field *Farmer's Insurance, 789-0664*
Jo Fox *Prudential California Realty, 803-8306*
Joseph Hegan 789-9030
Visual Communications Design
George Romero (858) 947-2318
Landmark National Bank
Jeff Ruland *Sears, 788-8080*
Daniel Vengler 789-1155
Daniel's Liquor & Deli
Randy Waitman *RAE Automotive, 788-4912*
Bryan Woods *Ramaona Pharmacy, 789-0180*

Staff

Sharon Uran *Executive Director*
Dolores Garcia *Office Manager*

Advertising

The Ramona Business and Community News is published monthly by the Ramona Chamber of Commerce.

Membership includes a monthly newsletter. To advertise in the newsletter, or to submit an article, please call the Chamber office at 789-1311. First priority goes to Chamber business and member information. Meeting listings are on a space-available basis. **Deadline for all copy and advertising is the 5th of the preceding month.** Inserts for the newsletter are due at the Chamber office by the 20th of the preceding month, with a check for \$55 for each set of inserts.

Postmaster, send address changes to Ramona Chamber of Commerce, 960 Main St., Ramona, CA 92065. Periodical postage paid at Ramona, CA 92065 USPS-004701.

Production:

Walker Communications & Media Services
Printing: Manzanita Press

SPOTLIGHTING NEW MEMBERS

Arbonne, International
Martha Lough
23912 Gymkhana Road, Ramona
788-2401

theoethermartha@myarbonne.com
supernatural.myarbonne.com

Martha is a representative for Arbonne, which offers direct sales of premium European skin care, color, aromatherapy and nutritional products (made in the USA). Weight-loss and body care products also are available.

Costco Wholesale
Peter Hafer, Monica Henderson
12155 High Tech Center Dr., Poway
(858) 848-2450

Costco.com

Costco is a wholesale warehouse, open to the public and to businesses, offering a variety of goods, from food and clothing, to household, outdoor and business products, to jewelry, books, toys, office machinery, CDS and DVDS.

Notes from Your Executive Director

By Sharon Uran
Executive Director

Congratulations to **Dolores Garcia**, who was recently promoted from administrative assistant to office manager of the Chamber. Dolores has done an awesome job, and we thank her for her successful efforts. The board accepted, with regret, two director resignations at our July meeting. **Dave Smithley (Albertson's)** will be moving to Spokane, WA., and the Chamber recognized his hard work on behalf of the business community at the May mixer. **Carol Fowler**, who has begun a new career with **Century 21 San Vicente**, also has resigned. Working in the world of real estate is a demanding one, and Carol has seen the need to devote her time and energy to this new endeavor. She will remain as a Chamber member and has offered to volunteer whenever needed. The Chamber appreciates the many years and hours Carol has given the Chamber as executive director, director and volunteer.

Thank you to **Jim Haworth Plumbing**, which came to the Chamber's rescue recently when our plumbing went berserk. Help was here in a heart beat, and they did a wonderful and efficient job at no charge. Another big thank you to **Paul Griffin** and his staff at **The Orange Book**, who have supplied the Chamber with new Ramona maps and Orange Books so that we can hand them out to tourists and new residents. Paul also has comped our Chamber ads, which is greatly appreciated. We also want to thank **Gloria and Ken Vockrodt of L&J Growing Grounds** for their generosity in donating plants used for the Business Expo, and in the past, at the wine festival. They delivered and picked up at no charge. After the Cedar Fire last fall, they also offered discounts to fire victims.

Ramona Disposal is donating time and resources for picking up trash in the 700 block of Main Street, in the Main Street Enhancement Area, on Mondays. The Chamber extends a big Thank You.

It seems it's time to celebrate anniversaries. **Nail Nak & Golden Tan** and **Charlotte's in the Country Antiques** each just celebrated 10 years, and **Manzanita Press** celebrated 16 years. Congratulations to all. We want to keep our business in Ramona, and it is wonderful to see our businesses succeed.

Speaking of keeping business "on the hill," have you seen the sign in front of **D'Carlo's** recently? "Live Ramona, Work Ramona, Dine Ramona." That says it all.

Two Chamber members recently experienced the loss of loved ones. **John Zzas** lost his father, and **Charlotte Jensen** lost a sister and a brother. Our love to both families.

Chamber awards 8 scholarships

Everyone who helped plan and/or participated in the Ed Bolen Memorial Golf Tournament last year had a part in the Chamber's awarding eight \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors this year.

The golf tournament is the key fundraiser for the Chamber's scholarship program, and on June 16, Chamber president Karen Clendenen (Century 21 San Vicente) and Scholarship Committee chair Josepha Hegan (Visual Communications Design) presented the awards to Nichol Gagnon, Sara Jane Anderson, Versain Jaramillo, Chase Beatty, Nathan Hicks and Aaron Cooper of Ramona High, and Ashley DeCarolis and Jesus Juarez of Montecito High.

This year's golf tournament is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 29. Call the Chamber office for more information on how you can help plan, be a sponsor and/or participate in this event—thereby ensuring that the Chamber's scholarship fund for next year is as good, or better than this year's.



Chamber Ambassadors and directors recently welcomed Lynn Russell of Diamond Environmental, a new member located in Poway.

Ramona Chamber photo



Ribbon-cutting for new member The Promenade Club featured staff, members, Ramona royalty and Chamber Ambassadors and directors.

Photo by Ramona Home Journal



Ribbon-cutting for new member Silhouette Studio for Women, with staff, members and Chamber Ambassadors and directors.

Photo by Jennifer Anderson

Country Fair will feature a "look back" in time

Themed days spotlighting the 1800s, 1950s, 1960s and a Fiesta Day are planned as part of the 34th edition of the Ramona Country Fair. The fair opens Aug. 5 and runs through Aug. 8, at the fairgrounds near 4th and Aqua.

The fair is sponsored by the Ramona Chamber of Commerce, and Randy Waitman, owner of RAE Automotive, again heads the planning committee. Christiansen Amusements will provide the carnival rides.

Entertainment Chair Nora Seidl, of Seidl's Party Supplies, is looking for bands and sponsors for the stage area—in keeping with the themes of each day. "There will be something for everyone," she promises.

Several fun-filled events will take place in the Fred Grand Arena. Events Chair Kathy Smiley said, "Utilizing the arena allows us to offer some old-fashioned fun for the community of Ramona." She will only say that participants will be needed "to cook, eat and have a good time."

The Ramona Country Fair is an annual event for the Chamber. It is brought to the community through the efforts of many volunteers and is funded totally by the generosity of sponsors from among the Ramona business community. Sponsors and volunteers are always welcome.

The Planning Committee meets July 5, 19 and 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chamber Office. All are welcome.

Who, What & When

CHAMBER EVENTS

Ramona Country Fair Aug. 5-8
Chair: Randy Waitman (RAE Automotive)
Info: 788-4912

Antique & Wine Festival Sept. 26
Chair: Bill Jenkin
(Farmers Insurance and Ramona Vintners Cellars)
Info: 788-1181

Merchants Trick-or-Treat on Main St Oct. 29
Chair: Dolores Garcia
(Ramona Chamber of Commerce)
Info: 789-1311

Ed Bolen Memorial Golf Tournament Oct. 29
Chair: George Romero
(Landmark National Bank)
Info: (858) 947-2318

Ramona Country Christmas Dec. 11
Chair: Jeff Ruland (Sears)
Info: 788-8080

Installation Dinner TBA
Chair: Sharon Davis (Silk Decor Interiors)
Info: 788-2509

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Scholarships — 789-9030
Chair: Josepha Hegan (Visual Communication Design)

Citizen of the Year — 789-1155
Chair: Dan Vengler (Daniel's Liquor)

Monthly Mixers — 788-8080
Chair: Jeff Ruland (Sears Ramona)

Ambassadors — (760-271-3090)
Chair: Jennifer Anderson



Chamber president Karen Clendenen, center, accepts a check for \$2,600, net proceeds from the Chamber-hosted Artists Open Studios Tour, from Joseph Hegan and Judy Nachazel, co-chairs.

Ambassadors Corner

NEW LOCATION FOR JULY AMBASSADORS MEETING

Ambassador Ray Cardona, of the Ramona Senior Center, has invited the Ambassadors to join the seniors Monday, July 12, at noon for lunch and our meeting. The seniors put on a great lunch—for only \$4.

JULY 4TH FUNDRAISER BOOTH

The Ambassadors will be raising funds for the Chamber by selling patriotic items at Ramona Rotary's 4th of July event. We also will have a fundraiser at the Ramona Country Fair in August, and we are seeking volunteers. Contact Jennifer Anderson at (760) 271-3090.

AMBASSADOR OF THE QUARTER

The Chamber Ambassador of the second quarter this year will be announced in next month's newsletter. The selection is based on attendance at meetings, volunteering at mixers and events, attending ribbon cuttings, enthusiasm, communication and more.

BUSINESS EXPO PARTICIPANTS

The Chamber would like to thank the participants of the third annual Business Expo, which was held June 26 at the Ramona Air Show. This year's participants included Torpin Screen Service, Comsure Direct Insurance Services, Silhouette Studio for Women, Patriot Propane, Inc., The Treekeeper, Inc., Faux Designs by Stacy, Arbonne International, Countrywide Home Loans, Sun Valley Charter High School, Costco Poway, Coldwell Banker Associates, Ideas in Wood, Ramona Pharmacy, Oil Changer, Mountain Valley Brush Control, Centre for Health Care, Expansion Products, The UPS Store, Karen's Critter Care, Chanda Robert Avon Independent Sales Representative, Bookkeeping at Ease, Pepper Creek Equine Center, Ramona Investigation & Patrol—Sossaman Backgrounds & Investigation, Ramona Chamber of Commerce, Suddenly Slender Shape, Keller Williams Realty, Old Julian Company, Top Notch Computer Repairs, Infinite Kid, Inc., High Valley Pool & Spa, Farmers Insurance/Karen Cullen and Amber Ramirez, Starlite Pool Construction, Ransom Brothers and North County Health Services. More to come on the Expo next month.

July Business Spotlight:

Unyeway, Inc., headquartered in Ramona, with additional programs in Santee and Lakeside, has been a member of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce since 1983. Its mission is "to enhance and enrich the lives of people with disabilities by employing and empowering them in their communities."

Services are provided to approximately 375 participants at the Ramona training center, the Ramona and Lakeside adult centers, the Adult Development Center and Community Employment Services throughout San Diego.

Unyeway operates RTC Nursery at 319 Rotanzi in Ramona, providing a variety of outdoor work opportunities for its program participants, such as plant propagation, maintenance and customer service. There also a grounds maintenance crew that provides service to homeowners and businesses, and for those who have specialized shrink-wrapping or packaging needs, RTC Productions is the place to come. Call 789-5910 for assistance with plant or production needs.

Chamber Notes

NO FAIR PARADE THIS YEAR

The Ramona Chamber of Commerce will not be sponsoring a Country Fair parade this year. We are in the process of regrouping our efforts and hope to return with a spectacular event in 2005.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER INFORMATION

When you need services or assistance and don't know where to find it, stop by the Chamber office and look over the brochures and business cards that our members have on display. If we don't have what you need, we'll do our best to find it.

CHAMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE EXPANDING

We will be expanding our newsletter, and we hope to have our new 12-page edition in place for soon. This is so we can offer more information of value to our members. To do this, we need your help. We will be offering quarter-page ads in the newsletter for the first time. With a six-month contract, paid in advance, those purchasing the ads also will get a quarter page write-up during their ad's run. We'll even help you design the ads. We also are selling business card-sized ads. Call Sharon at the Chamber, 789-1311, for more information.

NEWSLETTER FUN

Chamber members, be sure and drop your business card into the basket located at the bar at the next mixer. If your card is drawn, you will be the lucky member to win a free insert in the monthly Chamber newsletter. The card will be drawn at the mixer, and Chamber staff will notify the winner.

ADVERTISING FOR PENNIES

Advertise for only pennies by putting an insert into our monthly newsletter. All you have to do is provide the Chamber with 450 copies of what you want to advertise. The Chamber and Manzanita Press do the rest. For only \$55, your pre-printed flyers you will reach members and citizens of Ramona. Call the Chamber for information, at 789-1311.

WE MAKE REFERRALS

Did you know the Chamber office sends out notification of referrals to your business by e-mail? If you have not yet provided the Chamber office with your e-mail, please do so now—and when staff gives a referral to your business, you will be notified as to who and when it was made. To give us your e-mail address, call 789-1311 or send an e-mail to dgarcia@ramonachamber.com.

HELP US HELP YOU

Please keep the Chamber informed about any changes to your business or e-mail address or your phone or fax numbers. Fax those updates to us at 789-1317. And please contact the Chamber if you would like your business to be listed under additional categories on our website: ramonachamber.org.

Information You Can Use

The hiring minefield: You can't ask that!

By Jeffrey A. Agnew
Attorney at Law

As in many areas of labor law, the employer must walk a thin line to avoid running afoul of the law. If you've been in business any period of time, you know there are questions you just can't ask a prospective employee. Most of the rules are designed to prevent discrimination against one group or another, whether or not you intend to discriminate.

You probably know that many of the following are forbidden questions in the hiring process, but some may surprise you. Without further adieu, DON'T ask these questions:

- **Are you a U.S. citizen?**

You may ask if the person is legally authorized to work on a full-time basis in the United States. But you cannot base a hiring decision on an interviewee's national origin, lack of U.S. citizenship, status as a legal alien, or refugee. Of course, it is UNLAWFUL to hire an person not authorized to work in the U.S., and you have an affirmative duty to determine that such a new hire is legally entitled to work here.

- **Have you ever used illicit**

drugs? You can refuse to hire someone who currently uses drugs or alcohol. But past use or abuse, no longer engaged in, may not be used as the basis for refusing to hire.

- **What is your height and weight?** Actually, under appropriate circumstances, you can ask these questions. But the information must be used for a legitimate, non-discriminatory, purpose. If the height and weight criteria used by an employer has a disparate impact on women, then the employer must be ready to prove there is a "business necessity" for the requirement.

- **When did you graduate from Vine Covered University?** Because you may not discriminate on the basis of age, you should not ask this question.

- **Was your military discharge honorable?** You may ask if the applicant served in the armed forces, and even give preference in hiring without fear that this will leave you open to a charge of discrimination against women applicants. But you may not inquire whether a discharge was honorable or dishonorable.

- **Have you ever filed a**

bankruptcy, or are you currently in a bankruptcy? Under federal law, you may not discriminate against a prospective employee because they have filed a bankruptcy proceeding, because they have been insolvent preceding the filing of a bankruptcy, or because they have not paid a debt which has been discharged in bankruptcy.

- **How many sick days did you have from work last year?** This is a back-door way of asking about medical condition. It is permissible to ask, for instance, how many Mondays and Fridays were missed from work last year, other than those during approved vacation leave. This gets the legitimate information without getting into medical condition. As long as you do it for all new hires, you can make an employment offer subject to passing a medical examination, including drug testing. Before beginning such a process, care must be taken to set up a policy that complies with the law, and follow it without exception.

Jeffrey A. Agnew is an attorney in general civil private practice in Ramona, emphasizing business, real estate and estate planning. He can be reached at 788-2123.

Animal Services & Supplies

Your Chamber encourages members to contact fellow members when seeking goods and services. This month, we invite you to contact our members who focus on animals:

Pet Grooming

Bloomin' BathHouse
Professional Pet Grooming
1338 D St. 788-3647

Pet Sitting

- Sue's Pet Sitting (760) 443-9649
- Karen's Critter Care 788-5494

Veterinary Services

- Adobe Animal Hospital 1134 D St. 789-7090
- Matthews Equine Services 789-1120

Equine Breeding/Boarding

- Critterville Ranch (Arabian Horses) 789-7090
- Pepper Creek Equine Center 788-1795

Feed Store/Equine Supplies

- Elston's Hay and Grain 2220 Main St. 789-5020
- The Livery Feed & Ranch Supply 2537 Main St. 789-5582

Bird Breeder

- Myers Menagerie of Birds 788-5848

From the President...continued from page 1

to serving on our board.

What we must decide is, perhaps, how we are valuable rather than how valuable we are.

Karen Clendenen, President

TOT funds... continued from page 1

Street that Caltrans recently beautified with trees, benches, irrigation, trash containers and new sidewalks—a 20-year commitment for total maintenance that may cost at least \$8,000 a year.

"We will soon begin working with the county on a village revitalization project that will result in Ramona-specific zoning regulations," they told the supervisors in making their case for the Chamber becoming one of the recipients of a portion of the TOT funds.

"Please remember that Ramona is unincorporated and has no tax revenue of its own to support economic development projects. We depend on community enhancement funds for a significant part of our budget. Our plate is full. With your continuing help, we can keep it that way," the Chamber leaders told the board.

JUNE MIXER

The beautiful Rancho Esquilago Estates on Highland Valley Road was the setting for our June Mixer. The rollover jackpot went unclaimed because Geoff Torpin, of Torpin Screen Service, wasn't there to hear his name called.

The new jackpot is \$920, but because our next mixer is at Viejas, we will wait until August to try again to find a winner. Remember, you must be a Chamber member and present in order to win.

The Chamber thanks everyone who donated items for the raffle: Ramona Transmission, Jewelry World & Loan, The Squeekee Squeegee, Ramona Disposal, Sharon Davis Design, Countrywide Home Loans, Ramona Chamber of Commerce, Ramona Cancer Resource Center, Sears Ramona, Viejas Casino & Outlet Centers, Diamond Environments, Rancho Esquilago, The Promenade Club, Nail Nak and Golden Tan, Ramona National Bank, Expansion Products, Silhouette Studio for Women, Nulite Inc., Ramona Awards and Walker Communications & Media Services/Julie Walker.

Join us this month, when we travel to Viejas Casino and Outlet Stores on July 15 for what is always a fun event. Plans are being made to get a bus. Contact Jeff Ruland at Sears for more information.



Photos courtesy of Ramona Home Journal

Daniels # 2

Switch
to Ramona
Propane
and Realize ...



BIG SAVINGS!

(760) 788-6262

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am - 5pm



Jennifer Koenig
Home Loan Consultant

(760) 788-3535 Direct
(760) 788-4331 Fax
(760) 322-2631 Mobile

e-mail: jennifer_koenig@countrywide.com



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