

# NEIGHBORHOOD



## Live, Work, Play in Camarillo

By Maggie Hood

**C**amarillo residents try to keep it a secret: a Southern California utopia halfway between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. Fabulous weather, quality neighborhoods, excellent schools, outstanding shopping and a vast array of recreational and cultural opportunities are what make Camarillo a special place to call “home.”

The city was named after Don Adolfo Camarillo, son of Juan Camarillo (1812-1880), one of the earliest landowners and ranchers. The historic Camarillo Ranch now sits on 4.5 acres, all that’s left of the original Rancho Calleguas. In 1847, the Rancho, which was almost 10,000 acres in size, was given to Jose Pedro Ruiz by Gov. Alvarado. Juan Camarillo purchased the Rancho from Ruiz in 1875.

After Juan’s death in 1880, his 16-year-old son, Adolfo, began running the ranch. Under his guidance over the next 68 years, the ranch became one of the most valuable land holdings in Ventura County. He is credited with making many scientific improvements to farming and introducing many new crops to the area. A bronze statue of Adolfo on a horse stands at the south end of Old Town Camarillo.

Camarillo is blessed with a pleasant Mediterranean-type climate year-round. The city sits on a coastal plain, 150 feet above sea level. The Pacific Ocean produces a moderating influence on Camarillo, resulting in an average high of about 70 degrees

with light breezes. Because the city is 15 miles inland, the fog and often-overcast weather of coastal cities is practically non-existent, and residents enjoy over 300 days of sunshine per year. Slightly hotter summers means pool time fun for the residents.

Camarillo has become a shopping mecca. The revitalized Old Town area, the Camarillo Premium Outlets shopping center, and Camarillo Town Center

feature every type of store imaginable and attract locals and tourists alike.

The city is home to two public and two private golf courses, Camarillo Community Theater, three movie theaters, and several museums, including

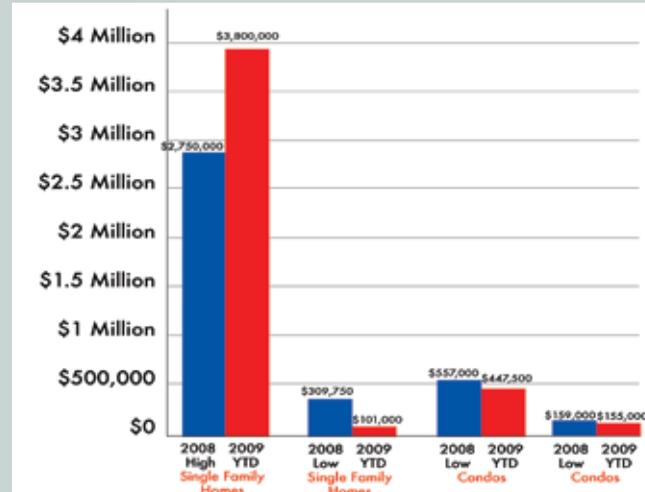
the Camarillo Ranch House, and the Commemorative Air Force Southern California Aviation Museum at the airport. Situated on 670 acres in the southwest corner of the city, the airport attracts both corporate and recreational aircraft with 550 aircraft based there.

In 2001, the creation of the California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) campus in Camarillo brought to fruition a 30-year goal of Ventura County to establish a four-year public university. The 23rd campus in the California State University system serves more than 2,500 students.

With all that Camarillo has to offer, it’s easy to see why the locals like to brag, “Live, Work and Play all in one great place.”

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### STATS



### VENTURA COUNTY

#### Sales volume of homes/condos:

June 2008: 767

June 2009: 844

10% increase

#### Median Price:

June 2008: 420,000

June 2009: \$365,00

13% decrease

Courtesy of Data Quick Information Systems



### SELECTED CAMARILLO OUTDOOR EVENTS

- “Cruise Night,” (once a month from April through September in Old Town)
- The Camarillo Fiesta and Street Fair
- Art and Jazz Festival
- Wine and Food Festival
- Summer Concerts in the Park
- Movies Under the Stars
- Point Mugu Air Show
- Camarillo Air Show