

# NEIGHBORHOOD



## Moorpark emphasizes family

By Maggie Hood

**M**oorpark became Ventura County's tenth city on July 1, 1983. Today, Moorpark boasts a population of more than 38,814, with about half the population under 31 years of age and the other half over 31.

With 42.5% of its adult residents being college graduates, it's no wonder then, that Moorpark High School produced the nation's winning Academic Decathlon Champions in four separate years – 1999, 2003, 2008 and 2009. Education is a priority there.

The valley where Moorpark is located was originally inhabited by the Chumash Indians. The area was part of the large Rancho Simi land grant given in 1795 to the Pico brothers by the governor of California. In 1887,

Robert Poindexter, the secretary of the Simi Land Company, was granted title to the land. He named the city after the Moorpark apricot which grew throughout the valley. Poindexter plotted Moorpark city streets and planted pepper trees along and adjacent to High Street in the downtown area. Today the downtown area is known as the city's historic district, and features charming turn-of-the-century buildings that house various businesses. The train station, with Metrolink running daily to Burbank Airport and downtown Los Angeles, as well as Amtrak service, is adjacent.

Conveniently located in the southeastern part of

Ventura County just 50 miles northwest of downtown L.A., Moorpark is just 12.44 square miles in size. At 580 feet above sea level, the annual temperature ranges from an average low of 49 to an average high of 78 degrees. This temperature is conducive to agriculture and many large orchards and farms can be found in the area. Moorpark is also home to many ranches, large and small.

When asked what makes Moorpark unique and special, Steve Carlson, Marketing Director for the Moorpark Chamber likes to talk about Moorpark Country Days, held every year the first weekend in October. "All the service organizations participated in Country Days this year, giving Moorpark a real sense of

**“Moorpark really focuses on creating widespread community participation and family atmosphere.”**

—Patrick Ellis, Moorpark Chamber President & CEO

community.” Chamber President and CEO Patrick Ellis agrees, saying, “Moorpark really focuses on creating widespread community participation and family atmosphere.”

The city prides itself on providing 16 community parks for its residents' enjoyment, one beautiful library, and there are seven golf courses within seven miles of the city.

Moorpark College, a community college, is unique for its Exotic Animal Training and Management Program, and features a zoo that is open to the public. It also boasts the county's only public observatory.

### REAL ESTATE SALES: MOORPARK

#### SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES:

**SOLD in 2008: 230**      **SOLD in 2009 (YTD): 256**  
**2008 High: \$2,450,000**      **2008 Median: \$535,000**  
**2009 High: \$2,325,500**      **2009 Median: \$513,500**

**2008 Low: \$253,000**      **2008 Average DOM: 151**  
**2009 Low: \$170,000**      **2009 Average DOM: 96**

#### CONDOMINIUMS:

**SOLD in 2008: 60**      **SOLD in 2009 (YTD): 96**  
**2008 High: \$459,000**      **2008 Median: \$290,000**  
**2009 High: \$480,000**      **2009 Median: \$261,500**

**2008 Low: \$160,500**      **2008 Average DOM: 139**  
**2009 Low: \$132,000**      **2009 Average DOM: 53**



### STATS

#### MOORPARK (from 2000 Census)

**Population:** 31,416  
**Population distribution:**  
**Under 18:** 34.2%  
**18-24:** 8.6%  
**25-44:** 32.3%  
**45-64:** 20.4%  
**65+:** 4.5%  
**Median income:** \$90,109

