

NEIGHBORHOOD



Newbury Park full of culture

By Maggie Hood

The community of Newbury Park is located at the eastern portion of Ventura County and the western portion of the Conejo Valley. Newbury Park is actually part of the City of Thousand Oaks, having been annexed into that city during the 1960s and 1970s. Newbury Park sits at the top of the Conejo Grade, where the 101 Freeway begins its descent into Camarillo, and it abuts the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Ranked in 2005 and 2006 by *Money Magazine* as one of the top 100 places to live in the country, it has a very affluent lifestyle. The magazine reported that the community of Newbury Park, not including Thousand Oaks, had a median household income of over \$97,000 in 2006. Money also ranked it as having the 11th highest per-capita income and the fourth-highest median household income in the nation compared to similar cities.

The area's economy is based on a small range of businesses, with biotechnology, electronics, automotive, aerospace, telecommunications, healthcare and financing occupying most of the employment sector. Many well-known and highly respected companies call east Ventura County home, including Amgen, J.D. Power and Associates, Jafra Cosmetics, General Dynamics, Skyworks Solutions, Verizon, WellPoint, Baxter BioScience, and Teledyne Scientific & Imaging, to name a few.

According to Wikipedia, the area was originally inhabited by the HEID people about 7,000 years ago, then later by the Chumash. Newbury Park contains many ancient burial sites, most near the Santa Monica Mountains in

the Southern part of the community. Many artifacts have been discovered in the area, and the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center honors the heritage with a gallery, bookstore and cultural presentations. Located in the shadow of magnificent Boney Mountain at the top of Sycamore Canyon, it is believed to be near an old Chumash trade route that cut through the Santa Monica Mountains. "Satwiwa" means "the bluffs."

Newbury Park is named after Egbert Starr Newbury, who owned thousands of acres of land in the Conejo Valley in the 1870s. He, John Edwards, and Howard Mills bought Rancho El Conejo land. Newbury became the first Postmaster in the Conejo Valley in 1875.

Hikers and mountain bikers abound on the many trails found in the Rancho Sierra Vista area at the end of Wendy Drive and Lynn Road, about two miles west of the 101 Freeway. Hike to a waterfall, the Chumash Cultural Center, to the top of Old Boney Mountain, or all the way to the Pacific Ocean on one of many trails. The entrance to the Rancho Sierra Vista-Satwiwa Native American Culture Center and more trails is a few miles to the south. Horses are allowed on some of the trails.

Another fun place to take the kids is the historic Stagecoach Inn Museum, at 51 S. Ventu Park Road. A reconstruction of the old inn along the stagecoach route, the museum is a great place to learn about local history.

And for beach fun or big city fun, Newbury Park is just about a short 30-minute drive from either Ventura to the north, or Los Angeles to the south, to enjoy the variety those cities have to offer.

STATS

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Population: 42,556

Population growth: 16.9%

Residents per square mile: 1,079

Median age: 38 years

Median income: \$88,988

Population distribution:

Male: 49.8%

Female: 50.1%

Married: 33.7%

Single: 66.3%

Families (w/kids): 33.9%



Satwiwa Native American Culture Center