

## Valley Life

Madera is located in the exact center of California, in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. This area is rich in agriculture producing a variety of crops such as almonds and grapes. It is a fast growing county bordered by Fresno, Mariposa and Merced counties. The rapid growth Madera is experiencing encourages many new businesses and economic opportunities but still manages to maintain the slower paced small town feel. This relaxing environment offers affordable living on the outskirts of a large metropolitan area (Fresno is 18 miles south). Families can afford a nice home and children enjoy their time by joining the 4H Club, Camp Fire Boys & Girls Club of America, Boy Scouts and can play sports just a few blocks from home.

Recreationing at nearby parks and lakes is within a few minutes of town. Madera is home to more than 20 different schools and higher education is available through many options such as the State Center Community College District, Madera Center, California State University Fresno, and University of California, Merced which all provide our community with exceptional educational excellence.

The Central Valley climate is generally mild and pleasant. Summer daytime temperatures reach the low 100's while the evening temperature remains in the 70's. Winters are very mild with moderate rainfall.

Madera County is accessible to the mountains; Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are in our backyard. The ocean is also within 2 hours allowing residents to enjoy all recreational and vacation activities.



For more valley life links, please visit the Madera Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.maderachamber.com>

## Recreation

Rodeo grounds, a theater, 15 parks, two golf courses, auto race track, three small theater groups, four community centers, Bass Lake, Mammoth Pool, Millerton Lake, Eastman Lake, Hensley Lake, Berenda Reservoir and several smaller lakes are just a few recreational opportunities within our Madera community.

Yosemite and other mountain areas including Devil's Postpile National Monument, Sierra National Forest, Minarets Wild Area, John Muir Wilderness and Nelder Grove of Giant Redwoods along with numerous Bass Lake boating events with 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks keeps residents of Madera county entertained throughout the year.



The Valley's best kept secret is the Madera Wine Trail. This annual weekend event is for those who love wine, desserts and especially chocolate. The Madera Vintners Association, together with award winning wineries of Madera host a weekend celebrating the delightful combination of chocolate and wine. Eight wineries welcome visitors to their tasting rooms come rain or shine to enjoy the bounty of Madera's offerings.

