

## RAMONA BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019 | VOLUME 34 | NO.11

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President Bob Krysak in a cat in the hat costume stands with JJ and Dick Lemire who dressed up as Thing 1 and Thing 2.

Many of you already know, but I am not pleased to announce that we are losing our office manager Olivia Rochelle as she goes on to pursue other opportunities that maximize the utilization of the degree she worked so hard to secure. When I say "lose," that is not entirely accurate. Olivia is and always will be part of the Chamber family and will always remain in our minds, hearts, and reality going forward. Olivia will be going to work at the UCSD Department of Music. It is a great opportunity for her, and their gain is our loss.

I have always been impressed by the partnership Joe, Olivia and Michelle shared in the office. The

camaraderie and effective sharing of tasks and responsibilities was truly a sight to behold. Egos were always left at the door and the job at hand was always the sole focus. And the results were in the productiveness produced by the staff.

I remember when we lost our last Executive Director and Olivia literally ran the entire Chamber for 3 months before Joe was brought on. Olivia is unflappable and brought a perspective to the Chamber which us old folks sorely needed. She preached appealing to a younger and more urban crowd for our events and outreach, and the results were obviously positive.

I have never heard a person utter a bad word about Olivia, and more importantly, I never heard her utter a bad word about any individual. She always sought the better angels of every person's persona and has a very judicious opinion. She was always happy and helpful, and I know that every member of the board, our ambassadors, and anyone who has interacted over the years with Olivia were better people for it.

As much as I selfishly am sorry to see Olivia go, I am excited for her as she seeks new challenges with greater upward mobility and more far-reaching challenges. Olivia, we love you, will miss you, and wish nothing but the best for you.

As we seek an individual to occupy Olivia's position (we will never be able to "replace" her), Olivia has graciously offered to help out both in selecting and training the new employee and continuing to help out with the newsletter as her time permits and our needs exist. That is the kind of person Olivia is. Interviews are ongoing, and it is expected that we will have a new employee soon.

Olivia's last day is Friday, November 8, 2019. So, if you have chance, come by and wish Olivia luck in the next phase of her limitless career, which she will surely rise to embrace in a big way. Tell her how much she has meant to our Chamber, which is a great deal, bar none!

President - Bob Krysak

### 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.



**Chamber  
of Commerce**

1306 Main Street Suite 103

Ramona, CA 92065

Telephone: (760) 789-1311

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E-mail: rccstaff@ramonachamber.com

[www.ramonachamber.com](http://www.ramonachamber.com)

**Executive Directors**

**President** Krysak & Associates  
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**Vice President** Century 21 Award  
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**Secretary** Ramona Community Foundation  
Cindy Galloway 760-271-1194

**Treasurer** Chase Bank  
Paul Zawilenski 760-703-2353

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Kathleen Cole Jewelry World & Loan  
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Leigh Eisen LE Designs  
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Carol Fowler MJN Real Estate  
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Madison Kirkman McKeen Motor Car Society  
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Susan McCormick Ramona Sentinel  
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Bob Murray Java Hut  
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Patrick Osio Ramona Disposal Service  
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Amber Ramirez Farmers Insurance Agency  
760-789-0010

Steve Smith Steve Smith  
760-803-4706

Eric Vellone ULM Media  
760-315-3284

**Ambassador Chair**

Katy Filek Cricket Wireless  
760-789-9266

**Staff**

Joe Stupar Executive Director

Olivia Rochelle Office Manager

Michelle Sund Administrative Assistant

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**RAMONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CORNER**

**Election Results Revealed at the Mixer**

President Bob Krysak announced the results of the 2019 board of directors election. Back on the board are Karen Domnitz, Paul Zawilenski and Amber Ramirez. Newly elected to the board were Michael Raher and Emanuel Pasternack. Each director will serve a term of three years on the Board.

**2020 Ramona Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**



The 2020 Board of Directors are Bob Krysak, Karen Domnitz, Carol Fowler, Cindy Galloway, Paul Zawilenski, Amber Ramirez, Patrick Osio, Bob Murray, Kevin Brown, Susan McCormick, Madison Kirkman, Leigh Eisen, Steve Smith, Emanuel Pasternack

and Michael Raher. New board positions will be determined at the next board meeting on November 19.

**27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

Join us on Saturday, December 7th from 5pm to 8pm for the 27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. There will be a full road closure on Main Street between 6th and 8th Streets so please come early to find parking and to avoid traffic detours. Around 6pm the tree lighting ceremony will take place at Guy B Woodward Museum. Vendors will be located in the old Ramona Family Naturals building while Santa will be in the Ramona Town Hall to take pictures with children and families. Residents and guests will be able to take a tour of the holiday classic car show and shop late with local merchants. Come to the event and you’ll find fun activities for the whole family. The Find the Elf contest starts at noon and ends at 7pm. Visit [ramonachamber.com](http://ramonachamber.com) for more info and contest details.

**Accepting Community Awards Nominations**

Every year, we recognize various people and organizations in Ramona for their benefit to the community of Ramona. These nominations should be for activities during the year of 2019. Voting is open to the public and nominees do not have to be Ramona Chamber of Commerce members. Categories include business of the year, non-profit of the year, citizen of the year and lifetime achievement. Visit our website to submit a nomination <https://ramonachamber.com/community-awards/> or email our office staff at [rccstaff@ramonachamber.com](mailto:rccstaff@ramonachamber.com) to request a nomination form. If you have any questions, please call the Chamber office at (760)789-1311.



## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL RAMONA FUNDRAISER & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Proceeds support  
Dream It, Be It  
&  
Live Your Dream  
programs.

These programs provide advocacy, scholarship help, education & career support for women and girls who face obstacles to their future success

Soroptimist is a global organization of compassionate women with a desire to participate in projects that improve the lives of women and girls. Most enjoy wine, but it's not a requirement!



# Vineyard Bingo!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22  
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

## TURTLE ROCK WINERY

\$25 PER PERSON includes:  
(pay on-line at [www.siramona.com](http://www.siramona.com))

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(or other Beverage)  
plus Appetizers!

PLEASE RSVP: [www.siramona.com](http://www.siramona.com)  
Adult event 21+ only

## Renewing Members

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>SINCE</u>
The Squeekee Squeegee	1993
Charlotte's Estate Services	1998
MJN Real Estate/Carol Fowler	2003
Thompson Painting	2005
Complete Property Improvements, Inc.	2008
Grant Liske, D.D.S.	2008
Ramona Cafe	2008
Ramona Town Hall, Inc.	2008
Ramona Woman's Club	2010
Ramona Smog Station	2012
Wood 'n Stitches	2012
Oakwood Escrow	2013
Ramona Bar Association	2013
San Diego Tourism Authority	2013
Bella Mia Salon & Spa Boutique	2014
Poway Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram	2014
Legal Shield/Identity Theft Protection	2015
Annick's Insurance Service	2016
San Diego County Water Authority	2016
Knight's Mattress & Furniture	2017
Rooter-Man Plumbers of San Diego	2017
Ramona Mainstage	2018

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TO SATURDAY  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2019**  
10 AM TO 2 PM

RAMONA SENIOR CENTER PARKING LOT  
434 AQUA LANE, RAMONA  
NEXT TO THE FAIRGOUNDS

Raffle Prizes

\$300 IN CASH PRIZES  
(FOR CARS ONLY)

Silent Auction

Free Hot Dogs



Free Drinks

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All Donations Go To Support The Ramona Senior Center

CONTACT LEROY CLUBB @ 619-980-3647 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ramona Senior Center and promoters are not liable for any accidents that may occur at the car show.

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# 5th Annual Taste of Ramona

The 5th Annual Taste of Ramona proved to be the most popular chamber event once again this year. We broke our event sales record by selling out of tickets a week before the event and had a waiting list of over 30 people looking for any remaining or returned tickets. With over 20 participating locations, those who had tickets were stuffed with delicious foods, desserts and beverages. Some of the favorite food tastings participants raved about were the wine and Cheese from the Cave pairings at Pamo Valley Winery, the Turquoise Barn Cider pumpkin float dessert, and Boll Weevil's pickled fries. New eateries such as Graham's Retro Diner, Wasa Sushi and Valencia's Crem de la Crem benefited from the event exposure. The event raised over ten thousand dollars for our nonprofit organization, which helps fund next year's educational grants and scholarship programs.



Ramona Ranch Winery paired with Ramona Family Naturals.



Pamo Valley Winery was a popular stop for tasters. Wine and cheese were brilliantly paired by Jennifer Lane and Kim Spero.



Rhonda delivers strawberry and grape jelly burgers to the tasting table which had a spread of milkshakes, BNS brewery beers, onion rings, Alaska Cod, and pickled fries.



Smoking Cannon Brewery provided up to three tastings during the event. Tasters could try any of their beers, sodas or nitro coffee. Marinade on Main also supplied a yummy French toast dessert. It was delicious.



Ramona Community Singers sing tunes outside of Old Town BBQ providing entertainment to tasters.



Tasters enjoyed the event with desserts from the London Bakery!



Valencia's Crem de la Crem was a new participant allowing tasters to see their new location and try their authentic homemade ice cream.



The Main Course Restaurant served lobster bisque, clam chowder and wine from Milagro Winery.



Dawn Kirkman welcomed tasters with pulled pork sliders at Old Town BBQ.



# Holiday Networking Mixer at Barona!

**November 21, 2019 | 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Barona Casino Golf Event Center**  
**1932 Wildcat Canyon Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF HOLIDAY FUN AND NETWORKING!  
RSVP IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND. CALL 760-789-1311 TO RSVP.



**ADMISSION: \$10.00 FOR EVERYONE**  
**NO FREE MIXER COUPON ENTRY**



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SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS

*Ramona Community Awards*

<https://ramonachamber.com/community-awards/>

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING!**



**Saturday, Dec. 7**  
**5pm-8pm**

Join us....  
Vendors, Holiday Car Show, Carolers, Dancers, Santa and more!

Road Closure: Main Street  
Between 6th & 8th Streets

*You're Invited...*



**Paseo Village Apts.**

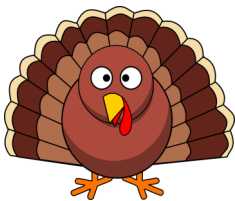
**November 15 @ 4pm**

1740 Paseo Court



**Happy**

**Thanksgiving!**



## CHAMBER CALENDAR

### November 2019

- 11 Veterans Day, Office Closed.....All Day
- 13 Connections Over Coffee.....325 6th St, 7:30am-9:00am
- 15 Deadline to RSVP for the Barona Networking Mixer.....4pm
- 15 Paseo Village Apartments Ribbon Cutting.....1740 Paseo Ct., 4pm
- 21 Barona Holiday Networking Mixer...1934 Wildcat Canyon Rd., 5:30pm-8pm
- 28-29 Office closed for Thanksgiving.....All Day

### December 2019

- 07 Find the Elf Contest.....participating locations, 12pm-7pm
- 07 27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.....645 Main St., 5pm-8pm
- 11 Connections Over Coffee.....325 6th St, 7:30am-9:00am
- 24-31 Office closed for holiday season.....All Day

### January 2019

- 01 Happy New Year, Office Closed.....All Day
- 08 Connections Over Coffee.....325 6th St, 7:30am-9:00am
- 17 RSVP Deadline for Installation Dinner & Community Awards.....4pm

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**Ramona Senior Center**  
**Car Show**

**11.16.19 10am-2pm**



**Ramona Artisan Market**



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**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**November 2019**

- 09 Adult Day Open House.....850 Main St., Ste 107, 10am-2pm
- 09 Hearts and Hooves Therapy's 5 year anniversary celebration fundraiser  
.....872 Main St. 4pm-8pm
- 12 A Night Among the Stars.....1401 Hanson Ln., 6pm-8pm
- 16 Watershed Warriors: Dos Picos Community Clean Up  
.....17953 Dos Picos Park Rd., 9am-11am
- 16 Ramona Senior Center Car Show.....434 Aqua Ln., 10am-2pm
- 16 In His Steps Dinner Auction Fundraiser.....1191 Meadowlark Way, 5pm
- 22 Soroptimist International Ramona Fundraiser & Membership Drive  
.....18351 Woods Hill Ln. 6pm-8:30pm

**December 2019**

- 07 Find the Elf Contest.....participating locations, 12pm-7pm
- 07 Road Closure.....Main St. between 6th & 8th, 4:30pm-8:30pm
- 07 27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.....645 Main St., 5pm-8pm
- 08 Old Fashioned Christmas Open House .....729 Main St., 4pm-7pm

Have an event you want to list on the community calendar?

Visit [RamonaEvents.com](http://RamonaEvents.com) to submit your event and/or view the online calendar.

**BARONA**  
RESORT & CASINO

*Holiday Mixer*  
**Nov. 21**  
*Must RSVP*  
**760-789-1311**



Amber Ramirez  
Insurance  
Agency, Inc.



Amber Ramirez  
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**Ramona Family Naturals**  
**MARKET**

Connections Over Coffee  
7:30 am - 9:00 am



2nd Wednesday  
networking  
social at  
Ramona Family  
Naturals!

**Road Closure:**  
**Dec. 7, 2019**  
**4:30pm-8:30pm**  
**Main St. between**  
**6th & 8th**



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## Valencia's Crem De la Crem:

We are a family-owned business specializing in old-fashioned ice cream, gourmet paletas, and crepes made from all natural ingredients. Established in 2018, Valencia's Crem De La Crem was inspired from our upbringing in Michoacan, Mexico. When we were younger our favorite



thing to do in our town of Cotija was to walk to the plaza. Our plaza was lined with shops and street vendors selling fresh, handmade food with ingredients sourced from local farms. Our favorite shop was the paletaria (popsicle & ice cream shop), when we walked through the doors our eyes were filled with what seemed like hundreds of gourmet popsicles and ice cream flavors. Today our shop is inspired by our childhood memories of that paletaria and our mission is to bring these gourmet, natural popsicle and ice cream flavors to you. Try their delicious homemade treats at 1925 Main Street and satisfy your sweet tooth!



# Insurance Agency With A History



The Amber Ramirez Insurance Agency, Inc., has deep roots in Ramona.

Amber Ramirez's family moved to Ramona when she was 3 years old, and she has been here most of her life.

The family agency with Farmers Insurance was started in 1969 by Harold Cullen, Ramirez's

stepfather. The business is still in almost the same spot, too, moving from 601 Main St. to 603 Main St. when the original office burned down.

When Harold Cullen passed away in 1978, Ramirez's mother, Karen Cullen, took over the business. She obtained her insurance licenses and completed her college education at San Diego State University, all while running the agency. Through it all, she also raised four kids — Haley, Allyn, Amber and April — and sent all of them to private school in the San Pasqual Valley.

On July 5, 2004, after earning a business degree from Mt. San Jacinto College, Ramirez started her own agency — the Amber Ramirez Insurance Agency, Inc. — and partnered with her mother. In 2008, Cullen retired, and Ramirez combined the two agencies.

Ramirez and her staff highly value their customers and take pride in maintaining high-quality customer service. Currently, there are two licensed, full-time staff



In this aerial photograph, the Farmers Insurance office had already moved from the Century 21 building at 601 Main St. to its current location, 603 Main St., before the Century 21 and McWhorter Jewelry buildings burned down. Photos Courtesy of Amber Ramirez

insurance needs. The agency offers all types of insurance, from auto, home, boat and RV to motorcycle, individual, business, workers compensation, and life and health insurance.

For Ramirez, it's all about helping others.

"I would rather educate someone and have them properly covered than not get a chance to talk to them and, in the event of a loss, have them be underinsured," says Ramirez.

"My goal is to help others. I currently volunteer for a number of nonprofits and am involved with a number of local community events. I love giving my time to this great community. It means the world to me, investing in our future."

Megan Peralta ~ The Journal

members, — April Lenhoff and Colette Hayes — who assist with the business.

Ramirez also has a brokerage to provide for customers when Farmers does not cover a certain type of business or declines a policy — so there are a number of ways to meet individual

**STOP**  
*and*  
**SHOP**  
*in*



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# All Things Dr. Seuss Networking Mixer

The October networking mixer was by far the best mixer of the year! Hosted by Ramona Disposal Service, the mixer featured a creative theme with decorations of All Things Dr. Seuss. It sure was fun and inspired many members to get creative and dress up accordingly. Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two were the most popular costumes members choose to wore. The best dressed seemed to be the Lorax as members were wowed with the homemade costume.

In addition to the fun atmosphere, there was plenty of delicious foods and drinks for everyone to enjoy. Food vendors also got creative with their food items. Marinade on Main had a green eggs and ham food sample and Dunkin Donuts frosted donuts with Dr. Seuss themes. Big thank you to Ramona Disposal Service not only for hosting an amazing mixer, but also for all their continuous community support over the years. The next mixer is at Barona on November 21. RSVP and we will see you there!



Adrienne, Patrick, Amber and Susan hosted the dinner at the dump. Even the Grinch gave the mixer a thumbs up!



Here is a family dressed up as cats. They had the best group costume with matching hats.



Katie was Thing One and Jessica was Thing Two. They looked the same with their hair all blue!



Dunkin' Donuts frosting themes were so great. Donuts were so good they didn't last long on a plate.



Susan McCormick and her husband dressed up as Sam. Their costumes were brilliant and he had a green ham!



Graham's Retro diner brought something new. The usually make burgers but now they have chili too!



Sara Allen won the Ramona Disposal Trash service prize. She hadn't won it before so she was so surprised!



The Dr. Seuss themed costumes were the best. But it was the Lorax who stood out from the rest!



Members and guests filled up the event. Everyone would agree the networking mixer was time well spent.



# CHAMBER CALENDAR

## WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

MusCon General Contracting Inc.  
Salvatore Muscarella

Bonez Marketing  
Shari Guenther

Paseo Village Apartments  
Janean Johnson

## ADVERTISING

To advertise in the Chamber Business Community Newsletter, please call our office at 760-789-1311.

## INSERTS

Inserts for the newsletter are due by the 25th of the preceding month, with a check for \$100 (\$55 for nonprofits) for each set of inserts.

## DEADLINES

Deadline for all copy and advertising is the 5th of the preceding month.

## OFFICE CLOSED

The Ramona Chamber is closed for the holidays.

Veterans Day 11/11

Thanksgiving 11/28-11/29

Christmas Holiday 12/26/19-1/1/20

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 1st Mon:** Ambassador Committee @ Noon, Chamber Business Center 1306 Main St. Ste. 103  
**2nd Tues:** Executive Committee @ 8:00am, Chamber Business Center 1306 Main St. Ste. 103  
**2nd Wed:** Connections over Coffee @ 7:30am, Ramona Family Naturals 325 6th St.  
**3rd Tues:** Board of Directors Mtg. @ 8:00am, Chamber 1306 Main St. Ste. 103  
**3rd Thurs:** Mixer @ 5:30pm, Barona Resort Event Golf Center 1932 Wildcat Canyon Rd.  
**4th Fri:** Economic Development Comm. @ 8:00am, Chamber 1306 Main St. Ste. 103

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 1st Thur:** Ramona Community Planning Group @ 7pm Ramona Library, 1275 Main Street  
**2nd Mon:** Ramona Municipal Water District Board Meeting @ 2pm, Community Center  
**2nd Thur:** Ramona Village Design @ 7pm, 2102 Main Street  
**2nd Sat:** Ramona Bar Assoc., Free Legal Clinic, @ 10am Ramona Library, 1275 Main Street  
**3rd Wed:** RREA Networking @ 4pm, [www.rrea.org](http://www.rrea.org) for location  
**3rd Thur:** Ramona Unified School District Board Mtg. @ 7pm District Office 720 9th Street  
**4th Tues:** RREA Speakers Presentation see [www.rrea.org](http://www.rrea.org) @ 8:30am Nuevo Grill 1413 Main St  
**4th Thur:** Ramona Design Review Board Meeting @ 7:30pm, Ramona Community Center  
**1st 2nd 4th 5th Thur:** Business Network Exchange @ 7am, Nuevo Grill, 1413 Main Street  
**Every Tues:** Ramona Rotary @ 12pm, Amici's Restaurant, 1429 Main Street  
**Every Sat:** Ramona Kiwanis @ 7am, Denny's Restaurant, 1946 Main Street

## Fire Season is Heating Up. Are you Ready? Remove your dead trees to reduce your wildfire risk!

*Ramona West End Fire Safe Council seeks applicants for 'Dead and Dying Hazardous Tree Program' to offer further protection to residents from potential blazes.*



**Ramona, California.** The Ramona West End Fire Safe Council [RWEFSC] has been awarded a grant to remove dead and dying trees in the State Responsibility of the Ramona Community Planning Area within 100 feet of a home and/or 30 feet of an access road.

For residents that would like to participate in the program, the RWEFSC will cover 80% of the tree removal costs, asking that property owners contribute the remaining 20 percent for the tree removal, making a potentially costly procedure more affordable for homeowners.

The RWEFSC is pleased to offer this opportunity to Ramona residents and assist those in danger zones mitigate the risk of wildfire with tree removal support.

To apply to be a candidate for tree removal, please fill out and submit a completed application to the RWEFSC. For more information on the program, or to request an application, please contact Kristi Mansolf at [kmansolf@gmail.com](mailto:kmansolf@gmail.com) and/or 760-445-8545.



Chamber of  
Commerce

1306 Main Street Suite 103, Ramona CA 92065

Holiday Networking  
Mixer at Barona!

November 21, 2019 | 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Barona Casino Golf Event Center  
MUST RSVP 760-789-1311 | \$10 Admission

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Saturday, December 7th, 2019

5 pm- 8 pm

Tree Lighting @ 6pm

Road Closure: 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Main Street Between 6th & 8th



**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SPONSORS**

Would you like to sponsor the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting? Sponsorship opportunities start at \$50 and go up to \$1000. Call 760-789-1311 for more info!

**Ramona Chamber Websites:**

[RamonaEvents.com](http://RamonaEvents.com)

[RamonaChamber.com](http://RamonaChamber.com)