

CENSUS REPORT

City sees population explosion

San Ramon's Asian population is growing fastest

By Jason Sweeney

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SAN RAMON — The city is growing like gangbusters, and its Asian population is growing the fastest. According to United States Census data reviewed by the City Council on Tuesday, San Ramon is more Asian, less Latino and has a higher percentage of young children and parent- aged adults and fewer young adults and elderly, than California and the country as a whole. The Census Bureau conducted its decennial census April 1, 2010, and has been gradually releasing data since then. On Tuesday, Assistant City Planner Ryan Driscoll presented the latest data to shed light on San Ramon's demographic changes related to population, age, household size and race.

Driscoll said the information can help the council and city officials better respond when making decisions on city services, park programs and facilities, land use development and business projects.

In 1984, when San Ramon became a city, its population was 23,444, and nearly all residents were white. Since then, the population has exploded to 72,148. The greatest growth occurred from 2000 to 2010, when the population jumped 61 percent.

Driscoll's report shows that San Ramon's demographic profile differs in several ways from that of California and the United States.

The most recent census data shows that San Ramon is 54 percent white, 36 percent Asian, 5 percent made up of residents of two or more races, 3 percent black, 2 percent other races, and 0.2 percent native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander. Hispanic or Latinos, who can be of any race, amount to 9 percent of the total population.

In California, the largest groups are whites at 58 percent; Asians, 13 percent; and blacks at 6 percent. Hispanic or Latinos of any race make up 38 percent.

Whites are 72 percent of the total U.S. population, blacks are 13 percent and Asians are 5 percent, while Hispanic or Latino of any race are 16 percent.

All races and ethnic groups have seen increases in San Ramon. Far and away the fastest growth has been in the Asian population, which saw a 285 percent increase since 2000. Whites saw a 12 percent increase, which was the smallest of all groups. Within the Asian population, Asian Indians saw a 490 percent increase since 2000. Koreans saw a 463 percent increase. Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino and other Asians saw increases of over 200 percent apiece. Japanese saw the smallest increase at 30 percent. Whites are the majority in all of San Ramon except for the Dougherty Valley, where Asians make up 58 percent of the population.

New housing developments have been going up in Dougherty Valley's rolling hills for the past decade with about 2,000 more homes on the way. Mayor Bill Clarkson said the city's phenomenal test scores in its schools over the past 10 years and its reputation for being family friendly has been attracting an influx of young families.

Dougherty Valley has the highest average household size in the city at 3.32 people per household. Average household size is 2.65 for the United States and 2.96 for California. San Ramon as a whole has an average household size of 2.85. But when Dougherty Valley is not included, the average falls to 2.64.

Dougherty Valley has a higher proportion of adults ages 35 to 50 and children ages 0 to 14 than the rest of San Ramon.

"It's a younger demographic moving out there — younger people with kids," Senior Planner Lauren Barr said.

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