



# STATE OF THE CITY

FALL/WINTER 2023  
NEWSLETTER



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# EVENT EXTRAVAGANZA

CELEBRATING SANTA CLARITA'S  
WORLD-CLASS EVENTS  
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City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# EVENT EXTRAVAGANZA

## CELEBRATING SANTA CLARITA'S WORLD-CLASS EVENTS

**H**ere in Santa Clarita, the transition of the seasons is marked by the return of beloved community events. As our hot summer temperatures shift to chilly mornings and early sunsets – we begin to sense the return of the holidays, and nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit like **Light Up Main Street**. This annual event literally flips the switch – transporting Santa Clarita into the merriest time of the year. Residents enjoy the tens of thousands of sparkling lights that illuminate Main Street in Old Town Newhall, as well as the gorgeous Christmas Tree in front of the Old Town Newhall Library.







## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN

As the winter season comes to an end, springtime in Santa Clarita marks the start of several popular event series including **SENSES Block Parties** in Old Town Newhall and the **Celebrate** series at the Canyon Country Community Center. With captivating themes and unique activities, SENSES really does stimulate all of your senses. This event series has a new theme every month, occurring every third Thursday evening from March through October, and offers everything from delicious treats and an on-street bar, to a live band and themed-performances. The Celebrate event series allows guests to immerse themselves in the traditions, tastes and sounds from countries around the globe. Travel all over the world every second Friday from April to September and celebrate all of the diverse cultures that make up our community.

Another much-anticipated April event is the **Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival** which returned in 2023 after a three-year hiatus. Residents and visitors alike took in the sights, sounds and swagger of cowboy culture while enjoying trick-ropers, authentic blacksmiths, live musical performances, down-home barbecue, line dancing and vendors selling western goods.

The red, white and blue is on full display every July 4 as residents line Main Street, Lyons Avenue and Orchard Village Road for the **SCV Fourth of July Parade**. Truly a community celebration, everyone from our Boy Scouts and proud veterans, to local nonprofits and marching bands wave their American flags as they march along the parade route. Once the sun sets, the sky illuminates over the Valencia Town Center for the **Spirit of America Fireworks Spectacular**.

Then as the weather really heats up for summer, Central Park is the place to be on Saturday nights for **Concerts in the Park**. Join thousands of your friends, family and neighbors for rocking performances from tribute bands playing current hits, old-time favorites and everything in between.

Santa Clarita events don't just entertain, they also help create a sustainable, clean, green City. The fall season marks the return of the annual **River Rally Clean Up and Environmental Expo**, where volunteers venture into the Santa Clara Riverbed to remove trash and debris. This family-favorite event helps protect our critical ecosystem while also informing residents about steps they can take to safeguard our environment.

The changing of the seasons in Santa Clarita is marked with all these incredible community events that enrich our lives and strengthen our community, while instilling a sense of local pride. To find out what is coming up, please visit [SantaClarita.gov](https://www.santaclearita.gov) and follow [@CityofSantaClaritaEvents](https://www.instagram.com/CityofSantaClaritaEvents) on social media.

**Thanks to the leadership** of our City Council, Santa Clarita continues to welcome new amenities which will benefit our residents for generations to come. Throughout the pages of this newsletter you will learn more about the newly opened **Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center** and updates occurring at **Central Park**.

To further develop our beautiful community, we have several new facilities on the horizon. The City has acquired the former YMCA building located at Summit Park on McBean Parkway. It is currently being renovated and will open next year as the new **Valencia Community Center**, making it the third community center located in our City. On the other side of town, preparations are underway for a multi-faceted **roller rink**, which will also offer opportunities for additional sports courts (pickleball!), located right next to the Santa Clarita Sports Complex on Centre Pointe Parkway.

Work continues on two vital new homeless shelters. The **Bridge to Home** shelter project is taking shape on Drayton Street, while progress continues on the **Family Promise** transitional housing facility in Newhall.

It is an exciting time for our City park system, as we continue to work toward ownership of **William S. Hart Park in Old Town Newhall**. The 160-acre park has been a Los Angeles County amenity since it was donated through William S. Hart's will, back in 1944. The County has expressed its desire to turn the park over to the City – which should take place in the next 12-24 months. Meanwhile, work continues on updated designs for our already existing City parks including Old Orchard, David March and the new Via Princesa Park.

Santa Clarita continues to create new, valuable amenities and services for our residents and we remain dedicated to enhancing our community, promising a bright future for all who call it home.

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

[kstriplin@SantaClarita.gov](mailto:kstriplin@SantaClarita.gov)

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



## VISTA CANYON

The **Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center** is open! In October, the Santa Clarita City Council held a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially welcoming the community to the fourth Metrolink station in the City. Located on the east side of the Santa Clarita Valley, the train station along with the bus transfer station, will act as a central hub for commuters looking to get around the City and the region. The train station will serve the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Metrolink Antelope Valley Line, which runs between Los Angeles Union Station and Lancaster.



## ROAD REHAB

A top City priority is making sure Santa Clarita's roads are safe and smooth for all who travel on them. The City's **Road Rehab Program** demonstrates the ongoing commitment to enhancing and maintaining the quality of our roadways. Over the last year, a mix of overlay and slurry seal treatments were completed on nearly 75 lane miles of pavement.



## SKYLINE RANCH PARK

Get ready to enjoy the City of Santa Clarita's 38th park coming to residents in the spring of 2024. **Skyline Ranch Park** is nestled in the hillside of the newly developed Canyon Country community and spans over 10 acres, offering a baseball field with shaded bleachers, a soccer field, a practice field area, tennis courts, a basketball court, a covered picnic area, shaded playground and more!

## WEBSITE LAUNCH

Fall in love with .gov! Our City now has a new, completely redesigned website built by our Information Services division enhancing and providing a user-friendly and interactive interface. Not only that, but switching to **SantaClarita.gov** means a more secure and credible government association. Also introducing what will soon be everyone's favorite feature: Ask Sammy! This artificial intelligence-driven chat bot will be by your side at all times for whenever you have a question or request. Visit **SantaClarita.gov** to experience this incredible digital makeover!







## SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get ready to ignite your love for books and join the fun at this year's **Family Literacy Festival**, located at the Santa Clarita Public Library Old Town Newhall Branch! The theme, "Take Me to Your Reader," promises an interstellar journey through storytelling. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., where you can enjoy out-of-this-world storytimes, live music, extraterrestrial arts and crafts and much more! The popular "Wonder Wheels" event is also back, featuring emergency vehicles, trash trucks and the City fleet. It's a literary journey you won't want to miss! For more information on the Family Literacy Festival, please visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com).



## THE BIG I DO EVENT

Calling all couples! This Valentine's Day, the City of Santa Clarita is proud to present "**The Big I Do**" wedding experience. This unique celebration provides couples with a lavish, stress-free alternative to a traditional wedding service, at a fraction of the price. Several couples will come together for a beautiful shared ceremony and extravagant reception. Included in this event are generous services from local vendors from catering, cakes and a DJ, to professional photography, all creating an unforgettable day. For more information about how to participate please visit [SantaClarita.gov/Weddings](http://SantaClarita.gov/Weddings).



## HOMETOWN HEROES AND VETERANS BRICKS PROGRAMS

This upcoming Veterans Day, the City of Santa Clarita reminds the community of the sacrifice made by our active duty and veteran community members. The **Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program** recognizes active military personnel from the Santa Clarita Valley. The banners are displayed on our streetlight poles three times per year and offer family members a way to show their pride and support of our local heroes. Another display of gratitude and respect is permanently integrated into **Veterans Historical Plaza** – a place of reflection, where the names of veterans are engraved on bricks. For more information on these programs, please visit [SantaClarita.gov](http://SantaClarita.gov).



## A MESSAGE FROM SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

**Santa Clarita thrives on the strength of its community.** As your Sheriff's Captain it's both an honor and a duty to ensure our City's safety.

The rising tide of fentanyl in communities across the Nation poses a direct threat to our youth. This drug, lethal even in minute amounts, has been found in almost every pill that is not provided by a pharmacy. With the rise of social media, it is easier than ever for our kids to get access to medicine they may think will help with anxiety, when in actuality, it could be laced with fentanyl and have tragic consequences. It's crucial that we talk with our children about the dangers of drug use.

I also want to remind all residents about our "Lock It or Lose It" initiative. Whether it's your car, home or business, an unlocked door is an invitation for crime. Recent Crime Enforcement Operations have been implemented with the sole purpose of creating a proactive defense against emerging threats. It's important to understand that crime reduction isn't an isolated effort. Our Patrol Units, Special Teams and Detectives all collaborate closely, sharing information and strategies. This joint effort ensures a comprehensive approach to crime prevention and resolution.

I'm proud to state that many of our station personnel are also residents of SCV. This unique overlap ensures that those entrusted with Santa Clarita's safety have a personal stake in its wellbeing. Their proactive approach, combined with their community ties, fosters a more personalized and effective form of policing.

The strength of Santa Clarita lies not just in our dedicated Deputies, but in the people who call it home. Our combined efforts, vigilance and mutual respect ensure that Santa Clarita remains one of the best cities in the Nation to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

**Sheriff's Captain Justin Diez**



# FALL/WINTER EVENTS

## LIGHT UP MAIN STREET

Light Up Main Street is almost upon us! On **Saturday, November 18, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**, watch as this cherished annual tradition transforms Old Town Newhall into a dazzling winter wonderland. Enjoy live music, food trucks and the vibrant tree-lighting ceremony that illuminates Main Street at 6:00 p.m. Stroll through Old Town Newhall with friends and family as the holiday lights glisten over you and shop for presents at one of the fine craft booths or local boutiques. Embrace the holiday season with photo opportunities with Santa, an Elves' Arts and Crafts Workshop, a Snow Zone and more!

## VETERANS DAY

Join us at the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, where we pay tribute to the brave veterans and active-duty military personnel in our community for their invaluable service to our Nation. This meaningful event, organized in collaboration with local veterans' organizations, is scheduled for **Saturday, November 11, commencing at 11:00 a.m.**, and located at Veterans Historical Plaza (24275 N. Walnut Street). Anticipate moving musical performances, guest speakers and a ceremonial changing of the flags during this special occasion.

## SENSES

Main Street in Old Town Newhall transformed every third Thursday evening from March through October for **SENSES Block Party!** From Tropical Summer, Renaissance Faire and Monster Mash, residents enjoyed themed games, savory food trucks, live music and an on-street bar at this lively event series. With its vibrant atmosphere that completely takes over Main Street, SENSES Block Party brings the community together and is one event series you will not want to miss next year!

## CELEBRATE SERIES

It's not every day you can say you went to a new country in your City! This year at the Canyon Country Community Center, residents had the opportunity to travel across the world to places such as Egypt, Peru, Spain and China, where they were able to learn new customs, taste authentic traditional food and more at our **Celebrate** series! This is an enriching event and we cannot wait for the anticipated lineup of new locations to explore for 2024!







## SC2025 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The City of Santa Clarita's **2025 Strategic Plan** is advancing significantly, driving initiatives that not only elevate our community, but also prioritize the well-being and quality of life for our residents. Notable highlights for this year include the recent opening of the Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center, the completion of the Central Park Buildout which brought four new multi-purpose fields and the popular exercise staircase and the much-anticipated launch of the

City's new website [SantaClarita.gov](http://SantaClarita.gov). To learn more about upcoming plans, parks and projects in the 2025 Strategic Plan, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/SC2025](http://SantaClarita.gov/SC2025).



## HOMELESSNESS

The City of Santa Clarita is proud to make headway on the **Community Plan to Address Homelessness**. Through the collaboration with the **Santa Clarita Community Task Force on Homelessness**, the plan focuses on advocacy and coordination of resources, prevention, direct services and housing. Earlier this year, the City Council joined Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, members of the nonprofit Bridge to Home, volunteers and community members to sign and raise a ceremonial beam, which was installed in the heart of the future shelter. This permanent shelter will provide 60 beds, eight family homes in apartment-style units, meeting spaces and more. Family Promise's transitional housing project in Newhall is also underway and will provide affordable housing units for low-income and homeless families with children, as well as an emergency overnight unit. To learn more about the Plan, please visit [SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org](http://SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org).

## DFYinSCV

As the school year is underway, the **DFYinSCV (Drug Free Youth in Santa Clarita Valley)** program is providing comprehensive education, support and resources for both our students and parents. This free program educates and empowers students to make good choices – leading towards positive and healthy behaviors, as well as easy-to-remember strategies to say no to drugs and alcohol. Operating in Santa Clarita's elementary, junior high and high schools, youth are encouraged to participate in student-led club meetings. In September, the annual **Parent Resource Symposium** took on the growing epidemic of fentanyl with the theme "Fake and Fatal: The Truth About Fentanyl." This event underscored the deadly potency of this opioid, which can result in fatal overdoses from even the smallest amount. For more information on DFYinSCV or the Parent Resource Symposium visit [DFYinSCV.com](http://DFYinSCV.com).



## A MESSAGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

### KNOW YOUR ZONE!

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is excited to announce the "Know Your Zone" campaign, a collaborative effort that aims to prepare residents and businesses for emergencies or evacuations. Working closely with our law enforcement partners and the City of Santa Clarita, this program creates evacuation zones throughout the City and surrounding communities.

Using the **Genasys Protect** platform (formerly known as Zonehaven), first responders and residents will refer to the same set of Zone maps used for planning and conducting evacuations. Residents can now see their "Zone" and have access to information about emergency services, see Zone status updates, shelter options and more. During a large-scale incident that requires evacuations, the Zone map will be updated in real time, so residents should check it regularly for status information.

To find their Zone, residents enter an address into the interactive map on Genasys Protect at [Protect.Genasys.com](http://Protect.Genasys.com) using the search bar provided. This will open a pop-up window, which includes the Zone name and information, and its emergency services. Residents should look up and record the names of all the Zones they frequent – such as home, work, school or homes of loved ones – and keep them in an easily visible place. Zones will be used in emergency alert notifications, so knowing the name of your Zone is an important part of your emergency plan.

Genasys Protect is a mapping tool that is used in combination with public alert and warning systems such as ALERT LA County and local City emergency alerting systems. Residents should sign up for systems in their area to receive evacuation orders when issued by public officials. When evacuation warnings or orders are issued for Zoned areas, notices will include Zone designations in addition to major streets and intersections. Residents can also download the Genasys Protect mobile app (IOS and Android). On the app, residents can "follow" their Zone so that they are alerted when the status of their Zone changes. At this time, only one Zone can be followed. Once an alert is received, residents will need to open the app or go to the website to view the status change and associated messaging.

Learn more about public alert and warning systems in LA County at [ready.lacounty.gov/Emergency-Notifications/](http://ready.lacounty.gov/Emergency-Notifications/).

Sincerely,

**Acting Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel**



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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## SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Santa Clarita's local businesses serve as the foundation of our community. By shopping and eating locally, your spending directly fuels community services and distinctive amenities that define our City. Supporting local businesses contributes to the exceptional quality of life that attracts residents and visitors alike. Don't miss the **Shop Local, Eat Local** feature on the City's social media pages that showcase local businesses each month. Discover the charm of shopping and dining locally as you become part of the collective effort to preserve Santa Clarita's rich character and foster a vibrant City for generations to come.



## ACCESS CITY SERVICES ONLINE

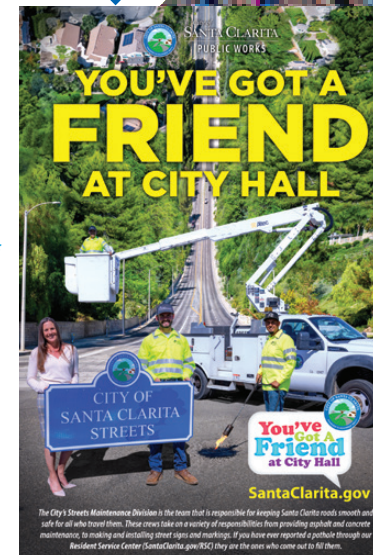
Need to report graffiti, a pothole or find out how to obtain a building permit? The **City of Santa Clarita's Resident Service Center** is there for anything you may need. This vital hub for the community offers a wide range of essential services and resources to ensure Santa Clarita continues looking beautiful. Dedicated City staff ensure that your questions and requests are answered promptly.

Visit [SantaClarita.gov/RSC](https://SantaClarita.gov/RSC) to access the Resident Service Center!



## YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND AT CITY HALL

Did you know that **You've Got a Friend at City Hall**? Meet the City's **Streets team**, who work hard each day to provide high-quality projects to our residents. This past year, staff completed 870 sidewalk repairs, replaced and installed nearly 2,500 street signs and made over 2,600 pothole repairs. The next time you see a team member out in the field, feel free to stop by and say hi or give a friendly wave – our team is here for you!



## HEADS UP

Being a "Heads Up" driver and pedestrian means prioritizing safety and awareness on the road. As a driver, it entails staying focused on the road, obeying traffic rules and avoiding distractions. Pedestrians also play a crucial role by staying attentive to their surroundings, using crosswalks and making eye contact with drivers. This approach fosters a safer environment for everyone, reducing accidents and promoting a culture of responsible road usage. Being "Heads Up" means paying attention to your surroundings and taking steps that not only keep you safe, but all those around you as well.

To learn more about the Heads Up traffic safety campaign, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp](https://SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp).

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with The City of Santa Clarita. Sigue nuestras cuentas en redes sociales en español para mantenerse informado sobre los proyectos, programas y novedades de La Ciudad de Santa Clarita.



## The State of the City Newsletter

is published by the City of Santa Clarita Communications Division

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