



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# STATE OF THE CITY

**SPRING/SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER**



**Mayor Jason Gibbs**  
**Mayor Pro Tem Cameron Smyth**  
**Councilwoman Marsha McLean**  
**Councilmember Bill Miranda**  
**Councilmember Laurene Weste**

**The Santa Clarita  
Cowboy Festival  
is BACK!**

**April 22-23 in  
Old Town Newhall**

*plus exciting news about*  
**Upcoming City Events**  
**Capital Improvement Projects**

*and did you know...*  
**You've Got a Friend at City Hall**

**[santa-clarita.com](http://santa-clarita.com)**



# THE SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL IS BACK!

APRIL 22-23 IN OLD TOWN NEWHALL!

After a three-year hiatus, the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival is back for its 27th year and will take place on April 22 and 23, with a new, urban venue – **Main Street in Old Town Newhall**. Experience the very best of cowboy life and western culture with music, food, activities, shopping and much more. General admission to the Cowboy Festival is **FREE** and attendees will be treated to a range of live performances and entertainment along Main Street, as well as at The MAIN theater. Special ticketed performances are scheduled as well, at the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Newhall Family Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The Cowboy Festival kicks off on Thursday, April 20, when Main Street hosts the **Wild Wild West SENSES Block Party**. As part of the recurring SENSES lineup, the event will feature a fun, western theme along with activities, live music, an on-street bar and more. SENSES is geared toward adults in Santa Clarita and takes place from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Then on Friday, April 21, head to Main Street to celebrate the newest inductees to the **Walk of Western Stars!** The Walk of Western Stars honors the legends of western film, television and radio. More information about this celebration can be found at [OldTownNewhall.com](http://OldTownNewhall.com).

As you mosey down Main Street during the Cowboy Festival on April 22 and 23, you will find yourself immersed in an urban take on a classic western event. Visit western apparel and gear vendors to find one-of-a-kind gifts as well as hats, clothing, crafts and artwork. Participate in fun family activities while you listen to some of your favorite performers from festivals past or discover a new favorite playing country western, folk and bluegrass music across three stages. Of course, purchase a bite to eat and grab a drink at the Cowboy Festival or by visiting one of the local restaurants and eateries along Main Street.

No matter your pleasure, you are sure to make the most of your day spent at the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival. For details on this world-class event, including performer lineups, Cowboy Festival hours and parking information, please visit [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org).







### Shop Local/Eat Local

Santa Clarita's one-of-a-kind businesses help create jobs for residents, offer high-quality goods and services and are integral to our City's character. You can support our community by shopping and dining at one of Santa Clarita's many local businesses. When you Shop Local, you can feel good knowing that a portion of every dollar spent will be invested in our parks, roads, libraries and other essential community services. Grab a drink at a local winery or brewery, visit specialty boutiques in Old Town Newhall, shop at more than 100 retailers at the Westfield Valencia Town Center and much more. Visit the City's social media pages or go to [santa-clarita.com/ShopLocal](http://santa-clarita.com/ShopLocal) for more inspiration.

### Trash Talks

On July 1, 2023, City of Santa Clarita residents will see changes when it comes to their weekly trash service. In addition to transitioning to a new waste hauler, residents will also begin implementing a state-mandated organics recycling program, which will help support the City's commitment to preserving the environmental quality of Santa Clarita through sustainable actions. To help break down the nuances of these changes and show residents what they can expect starting in July, City staff from the Environmental Services Division have launched a new video series called **Trash Talks**. These short videos answer frequently asked questions about the organics recycling program, as well as what to expect when waste services begin with Burrtec Waste Industries. Connect with [@GreenSantaClarita](https://www.facebook.com/GreenSantaClarita) on social media and visiting [GreenSantaClarita.com](http://GreenSantaClarita.com) to view new episodes of Trash Talks as they become available.



## A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN

**As they say**, change is the only constant in life—and there are two big changes coming to our City in the next few months. The first of which is the switch to by-district elections for our City Council seats.

Currently, our Councilmembers are elected at-large, which means everyone in the City gets to vote for each open Council seat. Back in April 2022, the City Council approved a settlement agreement with the plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit against the City claiming a violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The terms of the settlement agreement state the City will institute district-based elections for the City Council seats, starting with the 2024 City Council election.

In this new by-district election system, the City of Santa Clarita will be divided into five districts, and each voter within a district may only cast one vote for one candidate residing within that same district. We are currently conducting a collaborative process with the community to determine the boundaries of the five Council districts. You can see the schedule and proposed map by visiting [santa-clarita.com/DistrictElections](http://santa-clarita.com/DistrictElections).

The other change has to do with trash service in our City. Beginning on July 1, 2023, we will transition to a new residential waste hauler, Burrtec Waste Industries, and implement a state-mandated organics recycling program. All Santa Clarita single-family homes will automatically have their existing waste carts replaced with new Burrtec carts beginning in July. These new carts will follow a state-mandated color scheme, which requires black carts for garbage, blue carts for recycling and green carts for organics.

Your organic waste, consisting of food waste—will need to be disposed of in a plastic bag in the green cart, while yard waste must be kept loose.

Please follow both [@GreenSantaClarita](https://www.facebook.com/GreenSantaClarita) on Facebook and [@BurrtecSCV](https://www.facebook.com/BurrtecSCV) on Facebook or Instagram to get the latest updates or visit [GreenSantaClarita.com](http://GreenSantaClarita.com).

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

[kstriplin@santa-clarita.com](mailto:kstriplin@santa-clarita.com)





## A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

I am proud to say that Santa Clarita was once again ranked one of the safest cities in the nation. SmartAsset.com recently released its annual rankings and our City came in as the **4th Safest in America**. This achievement would not be possible without the vigilance of our residents, the support of the City and the hard work of our deputies.

Even with this recent accolade, we have seen a spike in the number of larceny-thefts—the majority of which are easily preventable. Would-be thieves are on the lookout for crimes of opportunity. Whether that is a car door left unlocked, or a purse left in plain sight on a car seat, clearly advertising what is inside and easy to take.

This is why we have teamed up with the City of Santa Clarita to remind residents to Lock It or Lose It. This new campaign is called **Lioli** (LEE-OH-LEE), short for **Lock It or Lose It**. Inspired by prescription medication commercials and advertisements, this eye-catching campaign stops theft cold by targeting crimes of opportunity at the source with our patented “Lock It or Lose It” technology. By limiting access to your home or vehicle through the use of special vandal inhibitors, called “locks,” cases of larceny-thefts have been known to decrease dramatically. Lioli works best when you lock your doors, hide your valuables under a seat or in the trunk and park in well-lit areas with high foot traffic.

Please keep an eye out for more Lioli ads and commercials coming soon. Follow the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff’s Station on social media to learn more or visit [santa-clarita.com/LockItorLoseIt](http://santa-clarita.com/LockItorLoseIt).

Sincerely,

**Captain Justin Diez**

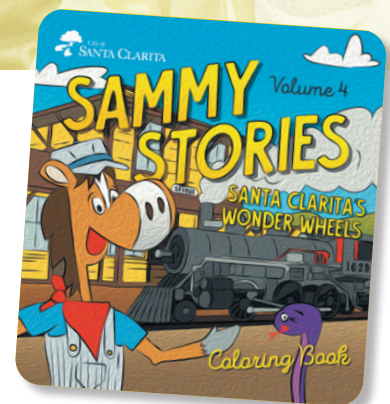
### YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND

Did you know that **You’ve Got a Friend at City Hall**? Every other month, a different division is showcased to highlight their roles and how they contribute to the City’s quality of life. Going green is incredibly important now more than ever and what better division to be featured than Environmental Services? Environmental Services, also known as Green Santa Clarita, helps keep the City clean by teaching residents and businesses how to utilize and practice recycling, prevent pollution, be energy efficient and much more. Make sure you follow the City of Santa Clarita on Instagram to catch the You’ve Got a Friend at City Hall Instagram takeovers. You will get a sneak peek into what a day in the life looks like, working for Green Santa Clarita!



### SAMMY CLARITA

**Sammy Clarita**, the City of Santa Clarita’s loyal mascot, has been a Recycle Hero, a representative for The Cube—Ice and Entertainment Center and now Sammy debuts as a train conductor! Not only does Sammy enjoy making appearances at special events like Light Up Main Street, but you can also find Sammy plushies hiding at different City facilities, such as any of the three Santa Clarita Public Library branches, parks and the Canyon Country and Newhall Community Centers. Download a copy at [SammyClarita.com](http://SammyClarita.com) and keep an eye on the City’s Instagram page to see where Sammy is hiding next!





# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



## Enjoy the Summer at the Santa Clarita Aquatic Center!

Over the past several months, work has taken place to complete pool deck repairs and other enhancements on the 50-meter and dive pools at the **Santa Clarita Aquatic Center**. In addition to addressing sections that were cracked, construction also consisted of re-plastering both pools, replacing diving board columns and updating the scoring/timing system. Whether you are interested in lap swim or enrolling your child in swim lessons, visit the Santa Clarita Aquatic Center this summer to beat the heat! Learn more at [santa-clarita.com/Aquatics](https://santa-clarita.com/Aquatics).



## Road Rehab Keeps Streets in Great Shape

Each year, the City's Road Rehab program addresses repairs and maintenance needs on select residential and arterial streets. The program fixes cracking, potholes and other road issues before they develop into critical, more costly issues. Using a data-driven approach that accounts for average traffic numbers and a road's Pavement Condition Index (PCI), Road Rehab works to preserve roadway infrastructure. With a goal of maintaining a Citywide PCI of 70—an industry standard—the City has increased its PCI by eight points to 72 over the past 10 years. This number is also above neighboring municipalities with similar roadway volume. More information about Road Rehab can be found at [santa-clarita.com/RoadRehab](https://santa-clarita.com/RoadRehab). A list of streets included in Road Rehab in 2023 will be published on the website when it is finalized.



## Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center Nears Completion

Vista Canyon residents—and those located on the eastern side of Santa Clarita—will soon have new ways to travel throughout the City and beyond. The **Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center** includes a **Santa Clarita Transit transfer station**, as well as the City of Santa Clarita's **fourth Metrolink station**. Once complete, the Multi-Modal Center will deliver convenient Santa Clarita Transit and Metrolink service to enable residents to get wherever they need to go throughout Southern California. Construction on the Metrolink station is anticipated to be complete in April, with track and signal operation work by the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to follow. A grand opening is anticipated for July. Please follow the City of Santa Clarita on social media for project updates.



## New Amenities Arriving at Central Park

Construction continues on the **Central Park** buildout project, which will result in the addition of four full-sized multipurpose fields, sports field lighting, landscaping and irrigation. There will also be a new restroom building, an exercise staircase with 172 stairs, improvements to the Central Park dog park and the addition of 286 parking spaces. Lighted pathways from the new parking area will enhance safety not only for dog owners going to the dog park but also those who use the Central Park Trail and paths for exercise. Construction is anticipated to be complete later this year.



## Visit the West Creek Park Inclusive Play Area

The new **Inclusive Play Area** at **West Creek Park** is now open! This revitalized play area features equipment and amenities designed for children of all ages and abilities, including wheelchair accessible play elements, a zip line with a high-back seat and much more. A new Bankshot Playcourt offers a unique challenge with 13 basketball hoops set at varying heights with a range of angled and non-traditional backboards. Visit West Creek Park today to see if you can get a perfect score!



# SUMMER EVENTS



## Indulge Your SENSES

Enjoy new sights, sounds and tastes each month in Old Town Newhall with a **FREE SENSES Block Party!** Head to Main Street every third Thursday of the month through the end of October for monthly themed events that stimulate your senses with live music, mouthwatering food, great entertainment and much more. Upcoming themes include an Outdoor Adventure (May 18), Game Night (June 15) and Tropical Summer (July 20)! SENSES takes place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and is geared towards Santa Clarita adults. See the full list of themes and dates for 2023 at [OldTownNewhall.com/senses-block-party](https://OldTownNewhall.com/senses-block-party).

## Join the Celebration

On the second Friday of every month at 6:00 p.m., from April through September, join family and friends at the Canyon Country Community Center to celebrate cultures from around the world!

**Celebrate** explores a new culture each month and gives residents the chance to experience music, art, food and activities. In 2023, Celebrate will highlight a culture from every continent – including West Africa (May 12), Spain (July 14) and the Tataviam (August 11) - and you won't want to miss out on the fun! Learn more about this family-friendly event series by visiting [santa-clarita.com/Events](https://santa-clarita.com/Events).



## Music Lovers Unite at Concerts in the Park

Santa Clarita's soundtrack to the summer is created every week at **Concerts in the Park**, presented by Logix Federal Credit Union! From July 8 through August 26, bring your family to Central Park each Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. for a free concert that will have you on your feet, singing and dancing to your favorite songs from a variety of genres and artists. Don't forget to bring your chairs and blankets to claim your spot on the grass! You can also bring dinner for a family picnic or order from a variety of food trucks each week. Learn more at [santa-clarita.com/Concerts](https://santa-clarita.com/Concerts).





## A MESSAGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

### Summer Reading Program

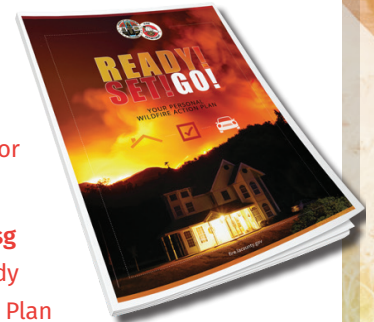
Summer is just around the corner, and at the Santa Clarita Public Library, that means that we are gearing up for the annual **Summer Reading Program**. We are excited to announce this year's theme as "Find Your Voice," encouraging readers to explore books, art and history surrounding topics that empower patrons to make their voices heard. Throughout the summer, each library branch will have activities for participants such as Makerspace, Storytimes, programs out in City parks and online reading challenges. The Summer Reading Program will begin on June 12 and last until July 29.

For more information on resources or summer programming, please visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com).



Although "fire season" is largely now considered year-round, there are still certain times of the year when the Santa Clarita Valley is more vulnerable. We are fast approaching that time.

Many residents of Santa Clarita will be subject to brush inspections for the first time this year, and we are striving to provide as much guidance as possible to make this process run smoothly for you. As you begin to prepare for your annual brush inspection in May, we also encourage you to begin planning now for wildland fire incidents that could affect Santa Clarita and its surrounding communities. We continuously update our very successful "Ready Set Go" program, which includes step-by-step planning for various ways in which residents can "harden" their homes in order to prevent ember intrusion during a brush fire, and comprehensive checklists to ensure proper preparations in the unfortunate event we call for evacuations.



Please visit [fire.lacounty.gov/rsg](http://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg) to download a copy of the Ready Set Go Personal Wildfire Action Plan to ensure you have the latest edition. You can also obtain copies of this booklet by visiting your local Fire Station. Once you have this booklet, please sit down with your entire family to review the program and complete the action plan.

Following the guidelines set forth in the "Ready Set Go" program will give your home the best chances of surviving a wildland fire, and will give you and your family some comfort and peace of mind knowing that you have planned ahead and will be prepared to evacuate safely, if necessary.

Sincerely,

**Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel**

### Say "Yes" To City Hall Ceremonies

Say "I do" at Santa Clarita City Hall! The City Clerk's Office is ecstatic to offer wedding services to all loving couples. Since its launch in 2020, **City Hall Ceremonies** has married over 427 happy couples and offers residents the chance to make their special day memorable and hassle-free. This past Valentine's Day, this program held its first ever "Big I Do" event, where six couples tied the knot—all at the same time—before enjoying an all-inclusive reception that included brunch, dancing, a toast and much more!

Whether you choose to have an intimate ceremony or get a confidential marriage license, the City has everything you need to make it a one-stop trip. For more information about City Hall Ceremonies, please visit [santa-clarita.com/Weddings](http://santa-clarita.com/Weddings).





City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

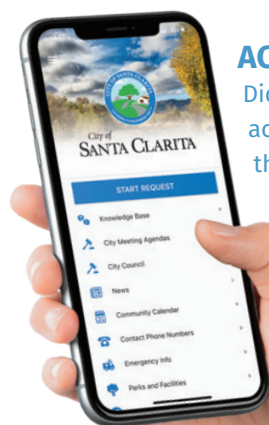
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### HOMETOWN HEROES

The **Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program** recognizes currently serving active military personnel from the Santa Clarita Valley. The banners are displayed on streetlight poles three times throughout the year and offer family members a way to show their pride and support of our local heroes. Digital banners are displayed year-round on the Hometown Heroes website, at no cost to our military members and their families. For more information on the City's Hometown Heroes Banner Program, please visit [heroes.santa-clarita.com](http://heroes.santa-clarita.com).



### ACCESS CITY SERVICES ONLINE

Did you know that many City services can be accessed and completed entirely online from the comfort of your own home? From reporting graffiti and requesting assistance in the **Resident Service Center (RSC)** to beginning the permitting process for construction projects, the City is proud to offer quick and convenient ways to get the help you need. The Virtual Planning Counter also allows businesses and residents to get more information on City planning and quickly and conveniently apply for permits online.

The original theft prevention system

# LioLi<sup>TM</sup>

## LockItorLoselt



**LioLi\*** (lee-oh-lee) stops thefts cold by targeting crimes of opportunity at the source with our breakthrough **LockItorLoselt** technology.

**LioLi\*** stops unwanted thefts by discouraging crimes of opportunity. Unleash an amazing, theft-free life, with **LioLi**. For a free trial, simply visit your vehicle and lock it up.

Stops Theft Cold!

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"Who knew that locking my doors would unlock my full potential?" - Sean



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*\*LioLi is not for everyone. Side effects may include keeping your stuff, not being a victim of larceny-theft and increased happiness knowing you are not an easy target. LioLi is for men and women who are pregnant, who are not pregnant and those who might become pregnant. Do not try LioLi if you enjoy being a victim of theft, like filling out crime reports or have an abundance of time to deal with your insurance agent.*

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with  
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### The State of the City Newsletter

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