



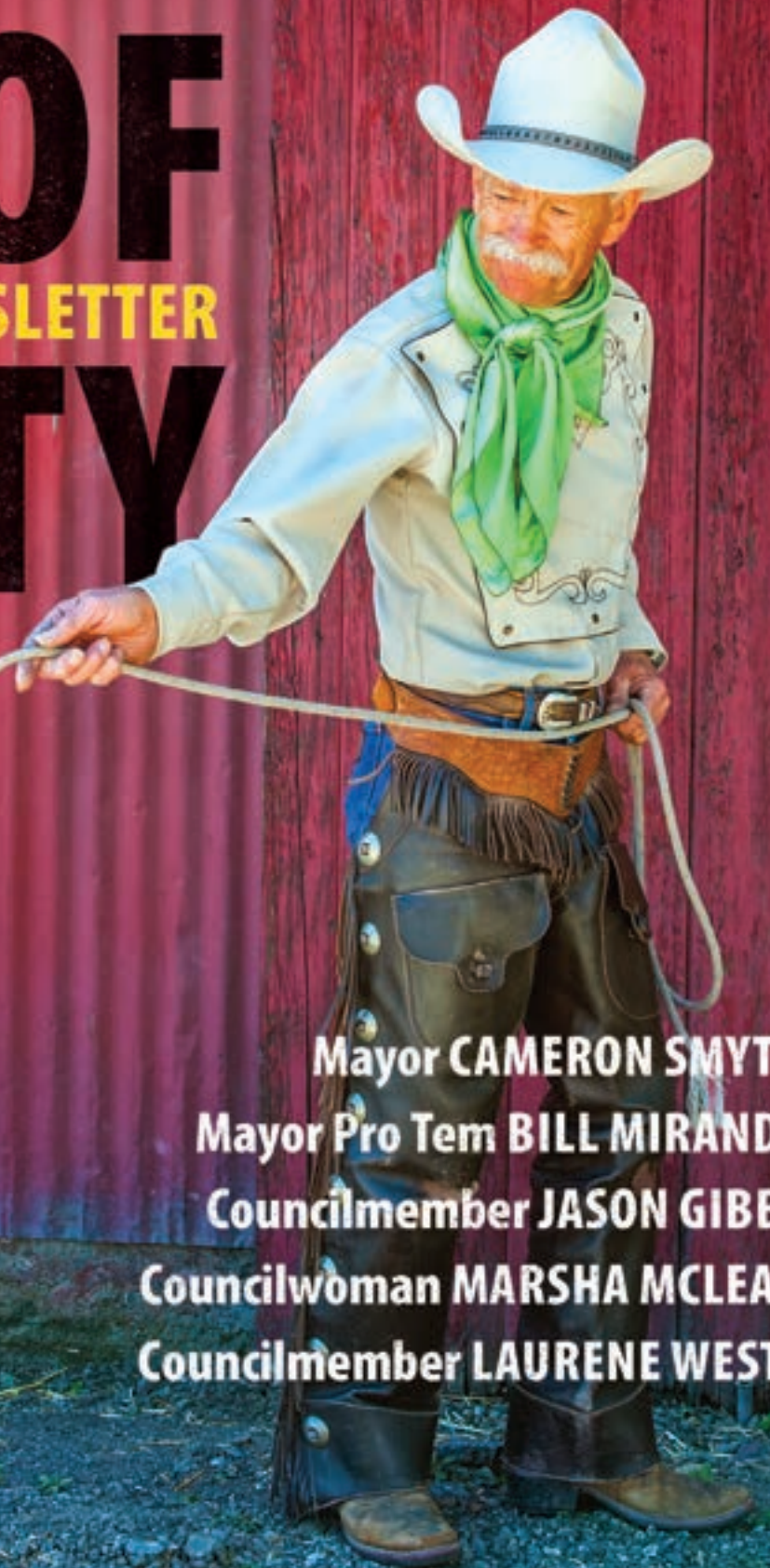
City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# **STATE OF SPRING/SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER THE CITY**

**The SANTA CLARITA  
COWBOY FESTIVAL  
returns to Hart Park  
April 20-21!!!**

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

**SantaClarita.gov**



**Mayor CAMERON SMYTH**

**Mayor Pro Tem BILL MIRANDA**

**Councilmember JASON GIBBS**

**Councilwoman MARSHA MCLEAN**

**Councilmember LAURENE WESTE**



# COWBOY FESTIVAL IS BACK!



**Get ready to saddle up,** dust off those cowboy boots and get ready to two-step your way on over to **William S. Hart Park** for the return of the hometown-favorite **Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival**. This world-renowned event is back at Hart Park (24151 Newhall Avenue) **from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21**, with general admission free for all attendees. As you enter Hart Park, you'll travel back in time to the Wild West where blacksmiths, trick ropers and buffalo soldiers meander amongst majestic oaks. The delightful scent of the famous Dutch oven peach cobbler prepared by the Rotary Club of Santa Clarita Valley will once again fill the air and make mouths water. Lucky Luke, the official brewery for the Cowboy Festival, will be onsite and providing their locally brewed beer.



The Cowboy Festival offers fun for the whole family, with activities such as mechanical bull riding and hatchet throwing, as well as opportunities to browse vendor booths where they will be selling hats, boots, cowboy duds, unique crafts, artwork and home décor. Guests can take a stroll to the Santa Clarita History Center where they can see historic homes, a school house, chapel and the original Saugus Train Station. New this year, make sure to check out Gilchrist Farm's Pioneer Corner, where you can try your hand at wool spinning, candle making, leather stamping and more!

There will be many opportunities to see live country western, folk and bluegrass performances at Hart Hall, as well as the Mane and Whistle Stop Stages, which will have you singing and dancing along. Enjoy various ticketed events, such as a tour at the California Fiesta De Rancho Camulos, Newhall Family Theatre "Cowboy Family Night," Melody Ranch Motion Picture Tour, Santa Clarita Studios

Tour and dance the night away at Dancing into the Dusk. Special VIP packages for the Cowboy Festival are also available for the weekend for \$100. The VIP experience grants admission to the Cowboy Cantina, located at The Patio at Hart Hall and includes a catered lunch served from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., an open bar, the chance to mingle with festival performers and special VIP shuttle service to and from the Cowboy Festival Shuttle Site (22400 13th Street). Tickets to all of these special events can be purchased at [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org).

There will be so much to enjoy at this year's Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival – back at Hart Park on April 20 and 21! For more information including activities, vendors, live performances, ticketed events, parking and more, please visit [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org).





## DFY in SCV

**Drug Free Youth in Santa Clarita Valley (DFY in SCV)** is a school-based drug prevention program held at the City's elementary, junior high and high schools. The DFY in SCV Drug Prevention team visits numerous campuses from each of the school districts to help spread the drug awareness message through assemblies, peer-led clubs on campus and providing support for student-organized monthly activities and events that advocate for drug-free lifestyles among peers. The mission is to highlight the risks associated with drugs, deter substance use and addiction and empower students to make positive choices, promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The program is made possible through the support of the Los Angeles Fifth Supervisorial District and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Through these combined efforts, the City of Santa Clarita strives to foster a safer and healthier community. To learn more about the program and how your child can get involved, please visit [DFYinSCV.com](http://DFYinSCV.com).



## Summer Reading Program 2024

As summer approaches, the **Santa Clarita Public Library** buzzes with anticipation for the annual **Summer Reading Program**. This year's theme, "Read, Renew, Repeat," aims to ignite a passion for eco-consciousness. Across all Library Branches, participants can anticipate a variety of activities, including sessions featuring recycled materials, tutorials on composting, repurposing fabrics, storytimes and outdoor programs in City parks. Additionally, readers can partake in online reading challenges for fun prizes. Save the date for the Summer Reading Program, starting on June 10 and concluding on July 27. And don't forget to join us for the Summer Reading Finale on Saturday, July 27, at the Old Town Newhall Branch from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for an eventful day for the entire family. For further information on resources and summer programming, visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com). Let's embark on a summer of exploration and learning together!



# A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN

## Explore Santa Clarita's Parks

You'd be hard-pressed to go more than a few blocks in Santa Clarita without discovering one of our many City parks. Having been a priority of our City Council since incorporation, our 38 parks are a significant factor leading to the high quality of life we all enjoy.

Look no further than our newest addition to the Santa Clarita parks system – Skyline Ranch Park at 18355 Skyline Ranch Road. Located on the east side of the City, perched high upon a hillside, this 38th City park has some of the best views of the valley. The picturesque vistas aren't the only thing to enjoy at this state-of-the-art amenity. Skyline Ranch Park also boasts a lighted baseball field, playground with inclusive elements, pickleball courts and more.

As you will read in the pages of this newsletter, the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival is back this year and has returned to the one and only William S. Hart Park. We are thrilled for this landmark City event to be back home at the 200+ acres of historical Hart Park, benefitting from its rich history, wildlife, rolling hills and majestic oaks providing shade for festival goers. Hart Park is the last Los Angeles County-owned park in our City, but not for long. City staff continues to work with the County on the transfer of the park, which will result in many more opportunities for future events and activities.

Speaking of events, our parks regularly play host to a full calendar of City events. Returning this April to the Canyon Country Community Center is the Celebrate series. This unique event highlights the diverse cultures that make up our community. Showcasing a different country each month, participants will experience the sights, sounds, tastes and activities from locations around the globe. When the temperatures heat back up for summertime – the beloved hometown-favorite Concerts in the Park returns to Central Park. Or do you prefer a movie night al fresco? City Cinemas brings movie favorites to different parks throughout the summer.

I encourage you to enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of Santa Clarita at one of our many parks. To learn more about all of our 38 parks and our full lineup of events, please visit [SantaClarita.gov](http://SantaClarita.gov).

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

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

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



## David March Park Expansion

**David March Park is expanding!** The park is set to undergo a significant expansion this summer, with eight acres being added to enhance offerings. The expansion will introduce a variety of new amenities, including a state-of-the-art baseball field complete with spectator seating, a new restroom facility and an additional parking lot. Improvements at the existing park site include the installation of a new basketball court, shade canopies over the playground for comfort, a new picnic pavilion, an area equipped with shaded exercise equipment for fitness enthusiasts and an expanded parking lot to accommodate the growing number of visitors. This upgrade promises to make David March Park an even more inviting space for everyone to enjoy.



## Bridge to Home New Shelter Ready to Welcome Clients!

In May, the Santa Clarita City Council will join local nonprofit **Bridge to Home** for a ribbon cutting ceremony, officially marking the end of construction on its brand new, permanent homeless shelter off of Drayton Street. Built in collaboration with the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles, this location has 60 beds, eight family homes in apartment-style units, meeting spaces, a kitchen and more. During the next few months, the Bridge to Home team will place the final touches on the interior in preparation for future programming and services. Operating year-round, this shelter will provide permanent affordable housing resources, crucial support services and food and shelter to our unhoused neighbors. To learn more about the City's Task Force on Homelessness or Bridge to Home, please visit [SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org](http://SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org).



## Valencia Community Center is Under Construction!

Construction is well underway at the **Valencia Community Center** in Summit Park! This facility promises a wide range of opportunities for our residents including the City's first indoor pool, offering not just a refreshing dip, but a gateway to additional aquatic activities. From swimming lessons to invigorating water exercise classes, there's something for every age and skill level. But that's not all – this community center will be a hub of engagement, hosting beloved programs such as Primetime Preschool, dynamic afterschool activities, enriching arts and crafts workshops and energizing fitness classes. Get ready to dive into a world of possibilities at the Valencia Community Center!



## Skyline Ranch Park is Open!

**Skyline Ranch Park** is officially open! In early April, the City of Santa Clarita opened its 38th park in the community. Spanning over ten acres, this state-of-the-art park offers our residents a wide variety of amenities including a baseball field, two tennis courts, a soccer field, a basketball court, picnic areas and more! With a spectacular view of the City, this park will be a great addition to youth and adult sports programming locations, City events and outdoor activities. Be sure to visit the Skyline Ranch Park (18355 Skyline Ranch Road) and enjoy our newest City amenity.



### Sand Canyon Trail Bridges

Pedestrian safety is our top priority and it's about to get even safer in Canyon Country. This spring, construction on two pedestrian bridges along Sand Canyon Road near Condor Ridge Road and at Iron Canyon Road will begin. As part of the **Santa Clarita 2025 Strategic Plan**, these enhancements will provide trail users with a safe path of travel and offer the community a trail system connection in the Sand Canyon neighborhood. The pedestrian bridges are anticipated to open to residents this summer.



### Roller Rink

Grab your skates and helmet and get ready to rollerblade! The City of Santa Clarita is excited to announce that site grading on **The Rink** will begin this summer! The future rink will be a 12,000-square-foot facility offering residents multiple opportunities to choose from, including a roller-skating rink, a full-size basketball court, three pickleball courts and a volleyball court. This facility will also feature a commercial kitchen, spectator seating, designated party areas, lockers and skate rentals. **The Rink** is anticipated to open to the public in the spring of 2026.



### Copper Hill Bridge Widening

Get ready for the **Copper Hill Bridge Widening Project**, situated at Copper Hill Drive over San Francisquito Creek between McBean Parkway and Avenida Rancho Tesoro. This developer-led project is part of the Tesoro Highlands residential development, which will enhance connectivity and traffic flow. The project will expand the north side of the bridge, facilitating the accommodation of three lanes of traffic in each direction, thereby enhancing traffic flow. This project encompasses a range of street enhancements, including sidewalks, a landscaped median, traffic signal adjustments, storm drain installation, curb ramps and street lighting. Additionally, it will bolster pedestrian and bicycle mobility by establishing a Class 1 trail connection beneath the bridge, looping around to the north side of Copper Hill Drive. Construction is underway and is anticipated to conclude by March 2025, with diligent efforts to minimize disruptions to daytime traffic by maintaining the current two lanes in each direction.



### Needham Ranch Parkway

Exciting news! **Needham Ranch Parkway**, located amongst The Center at Needham Ranch, is set to become the newest addition to our City's roadway network. Stretching from Newhall Avenue to Sierra Highway, this collector street will significantly boost transportation in the area. With enhancements like a new signalized intersection, bus stops, sidewalks, parkways, curb ramps, street lights and lodgepole fencing, the project aims to optimize traffic flow and improve circulation. Moreover, it will prioritize bicycle and pedestrian mobility through the construction of bike paths and crosswalks. Anticipate smoother journeys and enhanced connectivity when this roadway opens to traffic in early spring!



### Say "Yes" To City Hall Ceremonies

Celebrate your love story at Santa Clarita City Hall! The City Clerk's Office is thrilled to extend wedding services to all couples. Since its inauguration in 2020, **City Hall Ceremonies** has united over 553 loving couples, offering residents an opportunity to craft unforgettable and stress-free wedding experiences. This Valentine's Day marked the second annual "The Big I Do" event, where seven couples exchanged vows simultaneously, followed by an all-inclusive reception featuring brunch, dancing and a heartfelt toast. To top it off, one lucky couple won a dreamy seven-night Honeymoon Cruise courtesy of Princess Cruises! Whether you envision an intimate ceremony or seek a confidential marriage license, City Hall Ceremonies provides all the essentials for a seamless journey. Explore **[SantaClarita.gov/Weddings](https://www.santaclarita.gov/Weddings)** for more information on City Hall Ceremonies.



## A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

As the Captain of the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, I am acutely aware of the challenges we face in law enforcement today. Our mission to serve and protect is tested by a combination of factors, not the least of which is the ongoing issue of being understaffed. These hurdles complicate our efforts to ensure the safety and security of our community and have resulted in a measured uptick in part one crimes.

Despite these obstacles, I firmly believe that the strength of Santa Clarita lies in the people who call our City home. The residents of our community are its greatest asset, exhibiting remarkable vigilance and a commendable spirit of mutual care. You look out for one another and when you see something that looks suspicious – you report it and when there is something you can do on a personal level to keep our community safe, you step up. This is seen in the successful "Lock It or Lose It" campaign, an initiative aimed at combating larceny. By simply locking your vehicles and securing valuables, residents have played a crucial role in the dramatic decrease in theft-related incidents. In fact, unlocked vehicle thefts dropped from 858 in 2022 to 535 in 2023 – for a decrease of 37.5 percent. This success story is a testament to the power of community involvement and the effectiveness of preventative measures.

Moreover, our deputies, many of whom are residents of Santa Clarita themselves, bring a unique commitment and understanding to their roles. Their deep-rooted connection to the community serves as a constant reminder of the importance of our work and the impact it has on our friends, families and neighbors.

While the challenges we face in law enforcement are significant, the collective effort of our deputies and the vigilance of residents are formidable forces in maintaining the safety and security of Santa Clarita. Together, we will maintain our City's reputation as one of the safest in the nation.

Sincerely,

**Captain Justin Diez**

# SUMMER EVENTS



## SENSES Block Parties

Your favorite block parties are back this spring as Main Street in Old Town Newhall is transformed every third Thursday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. through October for **SENSES Block Party!** With engaging themes such as Saddle Up, Alice in Wonderland and Summer Solstice - Main Street will undergo a complete makeover, ready to stimulate your SENSES with interactive games, savory food trucks, live music and an on-street bar presented by a local restaurant. Dance, eat and drink the night away with your family, friends and neighbors at SENSES Block Party! [SantaClarita.gov/SENSES](http://SantaClarita.gov/SENSES)



## Celebrate Series

This year, you don't need a plane ticket to travel to another country! Every second Friday of the month from April through September, between 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., head over to the Canyon Country Community Center (18410 Sierra Highway) to experience an abundance of new cultures and customs with the Celebrate event series. Partake in learning activities, try international delicacies and watch live music and performances that will transport you across the world! [SantaClarita.gov/Celebrate](http://SantaClarita.gov/Celebrate).



## Concerts in the Park

Are you ready to rock this summer? From July 6 through August 24, sing and dance the night away at Central Park (27150 Bouquet Canyon Road) every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. for **Concerts in the Park!** An incredible lineup of cover bands will have you on your feet, singing along at these free concerts each weekend. Get there early to claim your spot on the field, grab a bite to eat from a local food truck and see what the stage has in store for you! [SantaClarita.gov/Concerts](http://SantaClarita.gov/Concerts).



### Free to Be Me Festival

Get ready for a day filled with fun, inclusive and adaptive activities at the **Free to Be Me Festival!** This year's event will be on Sunday, May 5, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., and will take place at a new location, West Creek Park (24247 Village Circle Drive), where participants can engage with the inclusive aspects of the playground, live music, performances, active storytelling, face-painting and more! [FreeToBeMeFest.com](http://FreeToBeMeFest.com)



### City Cinemas

Have you ever wanted to watch your favorite movie under the stars? **City Cinemas in the Park** is back again this year with an incredible catalog of movies to watch for free each month at a different location and time every fourth Friday of the month from July through October. Grab dinner from an on-site food truck and bring your blankets for a relaxing time under the night sky. Stay tuned for the upcoming lineup at [SantaClarita.gov/Events](http://SantaClarita.gov/Events).



### Fourth of July

Prepare yourself for Santa Clarita's most patriotic event of the year, the **Fourth of July** Parade and fireworks show! Find your spot ahead of time and behold as an assortment of incredible floats, cars, firetrucks, police vehicles and more make their way through the streets of Old Town Newhall. This landmark Santa Clarita event promises lasting memories for all who take in the red, white and blue spectacle. Later that evening, cast your eyes skyward above the Valencia Town Center, where the Spirit of America Fireworks Spectacular illuminates the night sky with its dazzling display. [SantaClarita.gov/Events](http://SantaClarita.gov/Events)



## A MESSAGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

**Have you protected yourself** and your family from “the invisible killer?” Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas you cannot see, taste or smell. It is created when fossil fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane or wood do not burn completely, creating deadly fumes that can easily kill people and pets. CO poisoning can result from malfunctioning or improperly vented furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in garages.

State law requires that CO detectors be installed in all residential occupancies with fuel-burning appliances such as oil or gas furnaces and gas stoves. They are also required in all residential units with attached garages. Although this law went into effect on July 1, 2011, for single-family homes and on January 1, 2013, for apartments, hotels and other multi-unit dwellings, there are a surprising number of people who remain unaware of this threat.

CO detectors can be individual units or hard-wired into your home, much like smoke alarms. There are also combination smoke alarm/CO detector units available. CO detectors should be placed outside each separate sleeping area (or a common area serving nearby sleeping areas), and there should be at least one on every level of the home. If you opt for a combination unit, follow the instructions for proper installation for that particular unit. As with smoke alarms, it is important to test these units periodically to make sure they are in working order.

Please take a few moments today to ensure you and your family are protected from “the invisible killer” by checking that your home contains the appropriate number of properly installed CO detectors.

Sincerely,

**Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel**



### Shop Local and Eat Local

The foundation of Santa Clarita lies in its local businesses, which form the bedrock of our community. When you choose to shop and dine locally, your spending directly supports essential community services and features that shape our City. By supporting local businesses, you contribute to the outstanding quality of life that draws both residents and visitors alike. Keep an eye out for “Santa Clarita Spotlight,” a video series created in partnership with SCVT, that highlights different local businesses. Experience the charm of shopping and dining in our community as you join in the collective endeavor to help create a thriving City for generations to come.

[SantaClarita.gov/EconomicDevelopment](http://SantaClarita.gov/EconomicDevelopment)

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### HONORING OUR VETERANS

In honor of the sacrifices made by our veteran community members, the City of Santa Clarita has a wonderful program available to highlight those who have served our country. Have you had a chance to check out **Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall**? This idyllic, peaceful location is the perfect place to reflect upon the freedom we cherish because of the selflessness of our local veterans, whose names are engraved on bricks that line the ellipse. With Memorial Day upcoming, spring is the perfect time to enjoy a walk around the plaza and pay respects to our local heroes. To commemorate a veteran with an engraved brick at the Veterans Historical Plaza, visit [SantaClaritaVeterans.com](http://SantaClaritaVeterans.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. Please visit [SantaClarita.gov/RSC](http://SantaClarita.gov/RSC).



### BEING A HEADS UP! RESIDENT

With the weather warming up and more people out and about, it's time for a serious chat about road safety. Recently, we have seen a troubling increase in avoidable car accidents on City streets, especially those that involve pedestrians. While the overall number of accidents has mostly stayed the same over the past few years, there was a notable rise in pedestrian-related incidents in 2023 compared to 2022. Most of these crashes occurred at intersections, primarily because of inattentive drivers (72 percent) or pedestrians not obeying traffic rules and crossing when they shouldn't have (28 percent). Now's the moment for all of us – drivers, walkers and bikers – to be **Heads Up!** residents. Drivers, ditch the distractions like your phone when you're behind the wheel – that message can wait. And pedestrians, pay attention and make eye contact with drivers before you step off the curb. To learn more about traffic safety and being a **Heads Up!** resident, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp](http://SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp). Let's make our streets safer for everyone.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with  
The City of Santa Clarita  
[SantaClarita.gov/Social](http://SantaClarita.gov/Social)



¡AHORA EN  
ESPAÑOL!

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