



City of
SANTA CLARITA

STATE OF THE CITY

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

CELEBRATING OUR

GOLD MEDAL CITY

20 MILES OF PASEOS

13,000 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL OPEN SPACE



\$18.5M LOCAL FISCAL IMPACT



38 PARKS

ALMOST **10K** LOCAL BUSINESSES EMPLOYING **93K+** RESIDENTS!

593 CITY HALL CEREMONIES SINCE 2020

TREE CITY USA HONOR 84 YEARS IN A ROW



73.6 SQUARE MILES

5% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

10+ MOVIE RANCHES

3 LIBRARIES

THE MAIN

AAA CREDIT RATING

230.4K RESIDENTS

3RD LARGEST CITY IN LA COUNTY

\$111K MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

125K+ JOBS AT THE CUBE

72% EDUCATION SOME COLLEGE OR HIGHER

MOST BUSINESS FRIENDLY CITY IN LA COUNTY

1M+ CIRCULATED ITEMS



25 PICKLEBALL COURTS

50 OVER SOUND STAIRS

300K+ LIBRARY VISITORS



ICE AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

POWERED BY FIVE POINT Valencia

SILVER LEVEL BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



\$342M BUDGET

SANTA CLARITA.GOV

MAYOR CAMERON SMYTH • MAYOR PRO TEM BILL MIRANDA

COUNCILMEMBER JASON GIBBS • COUNCILWOMAN MARSHA MCLEAN • COUNCILMEMBER LAURENE WESTE



City of
SANTA CLARITA

CELEBRATING OUR **GOLD** MEDAL CITY



We just saw the best-of-the-best athletes from around the world competing on a global stage at the Summer Games, in hopes of taking home gold for their country. Here in Santa Clarita, we strive to bring our residents the best-of-the-best service, programs, events and amenities — delivering gold medal-worthy experiences every single day.

Take a moment and think about the new facilities and parks that have been added to our community in the last few years alone. We welcomed the new **Canyon Country Community Center**, the new **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station**, **The Cube – Ice and Entertainment Center** powered by *FivePoint Valencia*, the **Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center**, **Plum Canyon Park**, **West Creek Park**, **Vista Canyon Park**, **Skyline Ranch Park** and the **Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita** — just to name a few. These new spaces enhance the already high-quality of life our residents enjoy, and there are more on the horizon! Within the pages of this newsletter you will learn about the massive expansion of **David March Park**, the new playground and other upgrades to **Old Orchard Park**, the progress on the **Valencia Community Center** and the plans for **The Rink Sports Pavilion**.

Keeping our City at a gold medal level also requires maintaining the vital infrastructure we already have. We are wrapping up the annual **Road Rehab** project which sees miles of roadway repaired and maintained every year. The Program uses slurry seal and overlay road treatment to improve City roadways, resurfacing and coating street surfaces, crack sealing, reconstruction and maintenance of roads. In addition, the City regularly repairs sidewalks, removes graffiti, resurfaces sports courts, adds shade structures at parks, completes preventative maintenance on bridges and works to increase circulation and safety on our roads.

We also strive to provide podium-topping events for residents and visitors alike. The City offers a calendar full of engaging events catering to a wide-range of ages and interests. The annual **State of the City** event returns on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at the Canyon Country Community Center**. Then in November, all eyes will turn to Old Town Newhall where **Light Up Main Street** will once again welcome thousands of people as we flip the switch and illuminate the magnificent Christmas Tree and holiday décor up and down Main Street. To check out all of our City events, please visit SantaClarita.gov/Events.

MORE>>>





Having a world-class City also means having a safe community. The City works closely with the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station to maintain our reputation as one of the safest cities in the nation. We also provide crucial drug and gang prevention programs for teens and youth. The popular **Parent Resource Symposium** is being reimaged this year, to reach parents where they are, through social media and podcasts. Speaking of reaching out, the City now has social media pages on Facebook and Instagram in Spanish, offering residents of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to connect and engage with the City. Please follow these pages [@CiudadDeSantaClarita](#).

Santa Clarita continues to bring home the gold, providing crucial services and programs, maintaining vital infrastructure, producing engaging events and protecting our community. You can find out more about everything going on in our gold medal City by visiting [SantaClarita.gov](#) and by following the City of Santa Clarita on social media.



A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN



The Park in the "Hart" of Our City

The City of Santa Clarita has long been committed to protecting and providing green spaces in and around our community. This is seen in our Open Space Preservation District which now has tens of thousands of acres preserved for the enjoyment of generations to come. Santa Clarita now boasts **38 parks**, with more on the way, as well as enhancements to existing sites. The City Council is also looking at adding one key park to our parks system.

Sitting in the middle of our City, **William S. Hart Regional Park** was left to Los Angeles County by its namesake upon his death in the mid-1900's. Back in 2021, the City Council began exploring the process of transferring this last remaining County park to the City of Santa Clarita. This 156-acre gem offers picturesque hiking trails, the Hart Mansion/Museum, a herd of bison, a barnyard with animals, a campsite, historic facilities and a gift shop.

Back in July, the City Council authorized the Master Agreement and adopted a resolution approving the transfer of the Park to the City. The County is now in the process of filing with Probate Court which could take up to eight months, then they would need to vacate the site so the City can begin operations. Taking all of this into consideration, the City looks to dedicate William S. Hart Park as a City park in the second half of 2025.

We look forward to all the recreational activities, events and other opportunities the City will be able to provide for residents at Hart Park in the near future!

Sincerely,

Ken Striplin
City Manager

kstriplin@santaclarita.gov



DFY in SCV

As the new school year kicks off, the **DFYinSCV (Drug Free Youth in Santa Clarita Valley)** program is ready to provide comprehensive education, support and resources for both students and parents. This program, offered free of charge, operates within elementary, junior high and high schools throughout Santa Clarita. DFYinSCV has developed an engaging experience for local students, including monthly activities that are both enjoyable and educational. Additionally, we encourage participation in student-led club meetings and regularly host a variety of speakers who provide invaluable insights and information about substance abuse and its prevention. This fall, we invite all residents to join us on our social media platforms [@CityofSantaClarita](#) and our Spanish pages [@CiudadDeSantaClarita](#) for our "**Parenting for Prevention**" drug prevention campaign. This online series will feature live podcast sessions with experts and parent meetings at local high schools, covering crucial topics on prescription drug abuse. These sessions will equip parents with effective strategies to support their children in navigating school pressures, media influences and online challenges. For more information about DFYinSCV or the "Parenting for Prevention" campaign, please visit [DFYinSCV.com](#).

SANTA CLARITA 2025

The City of Santa Clarita's 2025 Strategic Plan is nearing completion with just one year remaining. SC 2025 has served as a roadmap for the City, prioritizing resources, achieving milestones and ensuring top-quality services and facilities for both residents and visitors. This plan seamlessly integrates current projects with future initiatives to sustain our infrastructure. Please see some of the recent highlights below and you can read the entire plan at SantaClarita.gov/SC2025.



David March Park to Undergo EXPANSION!!!

With 38 parks community-wide, our City is excited to announce an upcoming expansion to David March Park! Join the Santa Clarita City Council on September 26, for a groundbreaking ceremony, officially marking the start of construction. And get ready — this location will become the second park in the community to have an exercise staircase! The footprint of David March Park will grow another eight acres in size, adding a baseball field with spectator seating, a parking lot and a restroom building in the new buildout area. In the existing park, upgrades will include a new basketball court, shade canopies, a picnic pavilion and an exercise equipment area! Whether it's taking your children out to practice, or simply enjoying the outdoors, this state-of-the-art park will be a great enhancement to our park system. Construction on David March Park is anticipated to be completed in 2026! Be sure to follow the City's social media pages to see updates on the project!



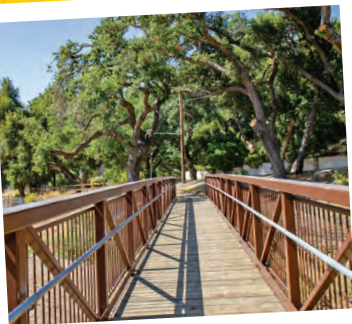
The City's Newest Community Center is Under Construction!

Have you driven by the future Valencia Community Center? Located in Summit Park on McBean Parkway, this facility is undergoing extensive upgrades to make it a community hub for residents across Santa Clarita. The facility will become a new home for our beloved Primetime Preschool program, offering arts and crafts workshops, fitness classes and so much more. This will also be the location of the City's first indoor pool. Whether you are learning to swim, or taking a water exercise class, this highly-anticipated amenity will provide our residents an indoor location all year long, no matter the weather! The Valencia Community Center is anticipated to open later this year.



Explore the Sand Canyon Pedestrian Bridges

Did you know there are two new pedestrian bridges along the Sand Canyon Trail? Located near Condor Ridge Road and Iron Canyon Road, these bridges provide pedestrians and equestrians a safe new alternative! The bridges measure 75-and 78-feet in length, and feature treated wood plank decks, making it a stable and comfortable surface for horses and their riders. 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.



Drive Down Needham Ranch Parkway!

Get ready for a quicker commute! Needham Ranch Parkway is officially open. Located in the award-winning 1.7 million-square-foot industrial park that spans over 250 acres in Newhall, this road provides motorists an alternate route between Newhall Avenue and Sierra Highway. In addition to the new signalized intersection at Newhall Avenue and Needham Ranch Parkway, the route includes new sidewalks, parkways, bus stops, bike paths and crosswalks. Next time you're driving through Newhall, be sure to stop by and check out our newest street.





Who's Ready for the New Roller Rink?

Santa Clarita is getting a roller rink! In August, the Santa Clarita City Council broke ground on the future site of **The Rink Sports Pavilion**, which will be located next to the Gymnasium at the Santa Clarita Sports Complex. Joined by the local skating group, the Skating Mamas of SCV, enthusiasts from all over Santa Clarita celebrated this momentous occasion. The 12,000-square-foot facility will provide residents with various recreational opportunities like a roller-skating rink, full-size basketball court, three pickleball courts and a volleyball court, all located on one surface. This hub will also be a place where residents can host birthday parties, events and more! The Rink Sports Pavilion is anticipated to open to the public in the spring of 2026.



Old Orchard Park Set for Modern Makeover

One of the oldest parks in Santa Clarita is getting a makeover! Starting this fall, **Old Orchard Park** will undergo a complete transformation. Originally built in 1968, this beloved park will be redesigned with a host of new features to better serve the community. The renovation will include a new playground, a large shade structure and improved landscaping. Additionally, a new ADA-compliant restroom building



will be constructed, ensuring accessibility for all visitors. The park will also feature a multisport court, offering residents a variety of game opportunities, including futsal — a modified form of soccer played on a smaller outdoor court. For our pickleball enthusiasts, the basketball court will be overlaid with a pickleball court, providing another location for residents to enjoy America's fastest-growing sport. Construction is anticipated to be completed by early summer 2025, bringing a fresh, modern look to Old Orchard Park and enhancing its appeal for all community members.

Bouquet Canyon Park and Valencia Glen Park Receive Enhancements!

Two exciting projects have recently been completed — the **Bouquet Canyon and Valencia Glen Park playground upgrades!** At Bouquet Canyon Park, the new tandem zip track, similar to the popular one at West Creek Park, offers kids a unique and fun way to play, promoting physical activity and



social interaction. Across town at Valencia Glen Park, the play area was expanded, offering more inclusive elements and ample space for residents to enjoy the shaded playground. Both of these locations are neighborhood favorites and now serve residents, kids and teens of all abilities. Be sure to bring your friends and family to check out the new park enhancements!



A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

Santa Clarita continues to be recognized as one of the safest cities in the nation. I am proud to say that many of the dedicated men and women who serve as deputies, also call Santa Clarita their home. Their commitment to your safety is unwavering, and their presence and proactive measures have significantly contributed to Santa Clarita's reputation as a safe City.

Despite their hard work, we have seen a recent spike in crime, not only in Santa Clarita, but across the region. In the City's 2024 bi-annual Public Opinion Poll, Santa Clarita residents once again listed Public Safety as the most important issue facing our community. I want to assure residents that your Sheriff's Department is working every day to drive crime down and maintain Santa Clarita's reputation as one of the safest cities in the nation.

We continue to work closely with the City on a comprehensive, multi-faceted crime reduction strategy to prevent and combat crime. This includes special operations and saturation patrols targeting potential crimes, from DUIs to grand theft auto.

One of the most effective ways to prevent crimes is to make it harder for criminals to commit them. By taking some simple steps, you can do your part to deter would-be thieves and protect your valuables:

1. Never leave packages or purses behind in vehicles. You may think you are hiding the packages well, but a thief could be watching, waiting for you to leave the items behind.
2. Never leave purses unattended in shopping carts. Thieves are quick to grab them as you're reaching for that grocery item.
3. Before walking into a store, ensure your car doors are locked and windows are closed.
4. Don't leave packages on your doorstep, have them delivered to your place of business if possible.
5. Close your garage and lock your cars to prevent easy access for thieves.

One of our biggest weapons in fighting crime is our vigilant community. Remember, if you see something, say something. You can report any suspicious activity to the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station at (661) 260-4000.

Sincerely,

Captain Justin Diez

FALL/WINTER EVENTS

Celebrate Our Diverse Community

This year marked another successful lineup for the Celebrate event series! Residents had the opportunity to explore the diverse cultures and customs of destinations such as Brazil, South Korea, Sweden, Cuba, Japan and Germany! Learning activities, international delicacies and live entertainment brought a taste of the world right here to Santa Clarita at the Canyon Country Community Center. We can't wait to see where the Celebrate journey takes us in 2025! For more information, visit SantaClarita.gov/Celebrate.



SENSES Wrapping Up

From Pirates, Alice in Wonderland to the celebration of 100 **SENSES Block Parties**, this year's popular event series delivered an incredible lineup of themed block parties that gave Main Street in Old Town Newhall a complete makeover each month. Featuring live entertainment, activities, food trucks and adult beverages, SENSES Block Parties are a highlight of the Santa Clarita event calendar, and we are all in anticipation to see what 2025 SENSES has in store! For more information, visit SantaClarita.gov/SENSES.



Veterans Day

Join us for the annual **Veterans Day Ceremony** as we honor the brave veterans and active-duty military personnel in our City for their invaluable service to our nation. This heartfelt event, organized in partnership with local veterans' organizations, will be held on Monday, November 11, starting at 11:00 a.m., at Veterans Historical Plaza (24275 N. Walnut Street). You can expect musical performances, insightful guest speakers and a ceremonial flag exchange during this special event. For more information, please visit SantaClarita.gov/Events.



Light Up Main Street

Get ready to discover holiday magic at **Light Up Main Street**, presented by DrinkPAK! On **Saturday, November 16, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, immerse yourself in festive fun as all five blocks of Main Street in Old Town Newhall transform into a sparkling winter wonderland. Enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, photo opportunities, kids' activities, holiday shopping and the captivating tree lighting ceremony that brightens Main Street at 5:30 p.m. Stroll through Old Town Newhall with your friends and family under tens of thousands of shimmering holiday lights and celebrate with an unforgettable holiday experience! For more information, please visit OldTownNewhall.com.



Shop/Eat Local

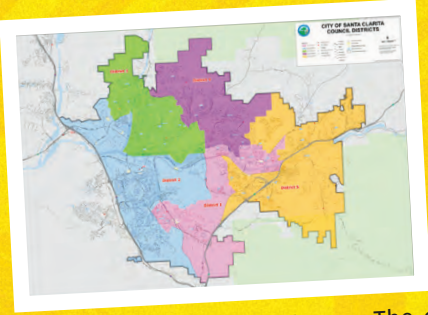
Local businesses are the backbone of Santa Clarita, and when you shop and dine locally, your expenditures directly fund vital community services and amenities that define our beautiful City. By supporting local businesses, you enhance the exceptional quality of life that attracts both residents and visitors alike. Additionally, you also help sustain jobs and fuel the local economy. This investment in our community ensures the continued availability of unique products and services from friendly businesses right here in Santa Clarita. For more information, go to VisitSantaClarita.com.



Family Literature Festival

A candy wonderland awaits! Get ready for a literary adventure like no other at the 17th annual **Family Literacy Festival** — Santa Clarita Public Library's landmark event of the year! This year's theme, "**Sugar & Spice Reading is Nice**," is set to dazzle at the Old Town Newhall Branch on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Picture yourself strolling down candy cane lane, exploring local vendors, arts and crafts tables and grooving to live music. Don't miss storytime sessions and the beloved "Wonder Wheels" showcase featuring emergency vehicles and more from the City fleet. It's a day of literary magic for the whole family! For details, visit SantaClaritaLibrary.com and join the sweetest celebration of reading!





Elections 2024

Did you know that the City of Santa Clarita has transitioned to district voting for City Council seats? This means that residents will now vote for only one council candidate who lives in their district. City council terms are staggered, therefore only two district seats will be up for election in November of 2024 — District 1, which includes Newhall and parts of Canyon Country and District 3, which includes

parts of Saugus up to Tesoro. The other three district seats will be up in 2026. You can also visit [SantaClarita.gov/DistrictElections](https://www.santaclearita.gov/DistrictElections) to review the map and read more about the process of transitioning to districts.

Forever Begins at City Hall Ceremonies!

The Clerk's office in the City of Santa Clarita is dedicated to celebrating love stories by offering wedding services to all couples. Since its inception in 2020, **City Hall Ceremonies** has united nearly 600 couples, providing stress-free wedding experiences through our **Wedding Wednesdays** program at City Hall and **The Big I Do** group wedding. Our recent Big I Do event on Valentine's Day saw seven couples exchange vows simultaneously, followed by an all-inclusive reception featuring brunch, dancing, heartfelt toasts and exciting giveaways. One lucky couple even won a 7-night Honeymoon Cruise from Princess Cruises! Whether you seek an intimate ceremony or a confidential marriage license, visit [SantaClarita.gov/Weddings](https://www.SantaClarita.gov/Weddings) for more information.



Homelessness

It is a landmark year for addressing homelessness in our community. Our local homeless services provider, **Bridge to Home**, celebrated the completion of their permanent shelter facility on Drayton Street. It offers space for more than 100 residents experiencing homelessness — including eight family units. **Family Promise** will also celebrate the grand opening of their new facility this year. Located on Newhall Avenue, it features a 2,700-square-foot Resource Center in addition to four interim housing units and an emergency overnight unit. Back in 2018, the City adopted the **Community Plan to Address Homelessness** which led to the implementation of the **Santa Clarita Community Task Force on Homelessness**. This approach has resulted in real action and tangible results — benefiting the most vulnerable members of the Santa Clarita community. Visit [SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org](https://www.SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org).



A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

With a significant increase in wildfire activity we, once again, would like to remind residents about two important Fire Department programs.

First, as we're sure you know, is **Ready Set Go**. We hope that everyone has reviewed the important information contained in this program and that you are prepared to evacuate when necessary. As a reminder, download your **Personal Wildfire Action Plan** from fire.lacounty.gov/RSg and follow the steps to ensure that your family is prepared.

Next, we have begun using a new evacuation planning tool called **Genasys Protect** (formerly Zonehaven). Visit Protect.Genasys.com and enter your address to find your Zone. If and when evacuation warnings or orders are issued, this platform will be updated in real time so that you can track the status of your zone. Learn the names of the zones where you live, work or play, and bookmark this website for quick access should the need arise.

You can also download the mobile app, **Genasys Protect** (iOS and Android). On the mobile app, you will be able to "follow" up to five zones. By "following" the zones you frequent, you will receive an alert notification IF the status of your followed zone has changed. Please note that this alert will only inform you that the status has changed; you will have to open the app or visit the website to see what the change is, as well as any additional information you may need to know.

The City of Santa Clarita is vulnerable to wildland fires, most of which are quickly extinguished. However, when a fast-moving brush fire threatens communities, it is extremely important that we are able to convey information to the public as quickly and accurately as possible so that residents are prepared to take appropriate actions.

Sincerely,

Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel

HEADS UP!

SEE AND BE SEEN. A SECOND CAN COST A LIFETIME.



Being a Heads Up! Resident

With school back in session and more people out and about on our streets, 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. Let's make our streets safer for everyone.

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. Visit SantaClarita.gov/RSC to access the Resident Service Center!



Hometown Heroes and Veterans Bricks

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** allows family members the opportunity to show their support for our local active-duty heroes within the Santa Clarita Valley. The banners are installed three times per year, proudly hanging on streetlight poles across the City. For more information, please visit SantaClarita.gov/Heroes. The Veterans Historical Plaza is a peaceful place of reflection, where the names of veterans are permanently engraved on bricks surrounding the park. For more information on the **Veterans Brick program**, please visit SantaClaritaVeterans.com.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with
The City of Santa Clarita
SantaClarita.gov/Social



¡AHORA EN
ESPAÑOL!

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Editor In Chief: Carrie Lujan, clujan@santaclarita.gov

Designer: Joe Redmond, jredmond@santaclarita.gov