



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# STATE OF THE CITY

## SPRING/SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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## A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN



# CELEBRATING OUR WESTERN ROOTS IN THE HART OF OUR CITY

Dusty trails wind through picturesque canyons, rolling hills dotted with majestic oak trees and towering sycamores. The rhythmic pounding of hooves sends puffs of dust skyward as horses traverse the valley, while cowboys saunter down wooden sidewalks. The lore and legacy of the Wild West are deeply rooted in Santa Clarita, and every spring, the spirit of the cowboy comes alive at the **City of Santa Clarita's Cowboy Festival**.

When our City was incorporated back in 1987, we inherited seven parks from the County of Los Angeles. Today Santa Clarita boasts 38 City parks with two more, steeped in our collective history, coming online this year. Park 39 will be the **Pioneer Oil Refinery**, where residents can learn about the history of California's oil industry. Park 40 – **William S. Hart Park in Old Town Newhall** – is also a site that has been around for generations and will be transferred to the City this summer.

In addition to these milestones, thanks to the leadership of our City Council, we are also expanding and updating several of our parks with work now complete at **Northbridge Park, Bouquet Canyon Park** and **Valencia Glen Park**. The much-enjoyed playgrounds at **Chesebrough Park, Creekview Park, Duane R. Harte Park** and **West Creek Park** have recently had the play surfaces replaced to ensure safety. **Begonias Lane Park** and **Old Orchard Park** are getting new play areas and **David March Park** is expanding by eight acres.

Thanks to the immediate popularity of the **Santa Clarita Bike Park**, a second and much bigger bike park in Haskell Canyon is in the planning phase. This new site will offer outdoor enthusiasts miles of mountain bike trails through our scenic canyons.

Couple all these green spaces within our City – with the more than **13,000 acres of preserved open space** around our Valley – and you can see the commitment to creating and maintaining these vital parklands for our residents. In addition, Santa Clarita was recently awarded \$1.4 million dollars in competitive grant funding for continued open space acquisitions from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

As the City continues to grow, preserving and enhancing these spaces remains a priority, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same natural beauty, recreational opportunities and sense of community that make Santa Clarita a truly special place to call home.

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

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Held at **William S. Hart Park in Old Town Newhall**, this annual event transports visitors back to the rugged days of the Old West. With nearly 160-acres of scenic beauty and historic significance, Hart Park is the perfect setting for this beloved tradition. The Park was once home to silent film legend William S. Hart, a pioneering Western actor and director, whose films captured the untamed essence of frontier life. Many of those movies were filmed on or near the very land that now hosts the festival.

This year's celebration carries added excitement as the City of Santa Clarita prepares to officially welcome Hart Park into its park system. Currently the last County-owned and operated park within City boundaries, Hart Park is set to be transferred to the City this summer. The transition will include not only the Park's trails and open spaces but also its rich collection of historic sites, including the Hart Mansion and Museum, the barnyard, campgrounds and even its famous herd of bison – originally a gift from Walt Disney himself. This transfer means events like the Cowboy Festival will continue to grow and evolve, enhancing the experience for residents and visitors alike.

Hart Park is steeped in history. Atop the hill stands the Hart Mansion, intentionally preserved just as it was when the actor

passed in 1946. Once reopened under City management, visitors will be able to explore Hart's personal collection of Western art, Native American artifacts, early Hollywood memorabilia and even his flatware, furniture and clothing. Nearby, the Santa Clarita History Center showcases several historic buildings, a steam engine and the 1888 Saugus Train Station. The barnyard, always a favorite for children, is home to alpacas, tortoises, pigs, donkeys and more.

All of these features make Hart Park the perfect setting for the Cowboy Festival – a celebration of the City's Western heritage. Festivalgoers can immerse themselves in cowboy culture with live country and bluegrass music played across three stages, try their hand at archery and hatchet throwing or test their grit by staying on a mechanical bull for eight seconds. Visitors can also savor mouthwatering barbecue and even deck themselves out in authentic Western attire.

With so much to experience, the return of the Cowboy Festival to William S. Hart Park is highly anticipated. And as the City of Santa Clarita prepares to officially make the Park its own, this year's festival marks not just a celebration of cowboy culture, but a new chapter in the Park's storied history.

To learn more about the Cowboy Festival, visit [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org).



## Cowboy Festival

Saddle up for the **29th Annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival** at **William S. Hart Park** (24151 Newhall Avenue) on **Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13!** Enjoy live country, folk and bluegrass music, plus activities like mechanical bull riding, hatchet throwing and so much more. Shop for Western gear, savor Dutch oven peach cobbler and don't miss out on VIP packages and special, ticketed events. General admission is free, with all information to be found at [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org)!



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



## Northbridge Park Playground is Open!

In February, Santa Clarita City Council, members of the Saugus Union School District and the Charles Helmers Elementary School Class of 2025 cut the ribbon to the brand-new playground at **Northbridge Park**! Designed with our students in mind, this space offers a variety of inclusive features that ensure every child can join in on the fun. From play panels with the braille alphabet and musical elements to the always-popular inclusive spinner, this playground is built for everyone to enjoy. For the safety of our students, this playground will be gated and used exclusively by Helmers students during school hours. However, after school, on weekends and during non-school days, the gates will be unlocked, allowing residents to enjoy this wonderful space.



## Pioneer Oil Refinery Park Opening Soon!

Step back in time at the **Pioneer Oil Refinery Park**. Soon to officially be the City's 39th park, the Pioneer Oil Refinery dates back to 1876 when California Star Oil Works, now commonly known as Chevron, established the first successful oil refinery in California. This historic location invites residents to learn about our community's rich Western history, and look upon structures that were used to process petroleum from nearby Pico Canyon into kerosene which was used to illuminate lamps. The Pioneer Oil Refinery Park is located in Newhall at the corner of Needham Ranch Parkway and Pioneer Way.



## Old Orchard Park is Almost Complete!

One of the City's oldest parks is getting a major upgrade! Originally developed in 1968 as part of Valencia's master-planned community, **Old Orchard Park** is undergoing exciting enhancements. Upgrades include a brand-new playground with a shade structure, a renovated ADA-accessible restroom building and a new multisport court. Plus, the existing basketball court will now be overlaid with a pickleball court, giving the community another location to play! Construction is anticipated to be completed later this summer.



## New Exercise Staircase Coming to David March Park!

Did you know the City is currently constructing our second exercise staircase? The **David March Park Expansion Project** is underway and already taking shape! Adding another eight acres to the Park, the new footprint will include a baseball field with spectator seating, a brand-new restroom building and an additional parking lot. Enhancements to the existing Park site will also include new shade canopies over the playground, a picnic pavilion, a new shaded exercise equipment area and an expanded parking lot. The project is anticipated to be completed in spring 2026.



Scan the code for a full list of ongoing projects!



### Explore the River of Lights!

The wait is almost over! The highly-anticipated **River of Lights at Central Park** is set to open this spring, bringing a mesmerizing, immersive light experience to the community. This scenic walk-through amenity features hundreds of LED lights embedded along the plaza walkway, flowing seamlessly up the mountainside and illuminating the sides of the 172-step exercise staircase. At the heart of the plaza stands *When a Cloud Met a Cloud*, a 14-foot sculpture with white clouds and colorful “rain” columns, symbolizing the beauty and importance of water in our community.



### Rolling into Construction at The Rink Pavilion

Lace-up your skates and get ready to roll! Construction is officially underway at **The Rink Sports Pavilion**, with site grading complete. Located at the Santa Clarita Sports Complex, this exciting 12,000-square-foot facility will feature a roller-skating rink, with various sport overlays including basketball, pickleball and volleyball. Additional amenities include a commercial kitchen, spectator seating, birthday party areas, lockers and skate rentals. Designed to provide a dynamic space for recreation and community events, The Rink is on track to welcome the public in summer of 2026.



### Copper Hill Bridge Widening Project

The **Copper Hill Bridge Widening Project** is nearing completion! Located over the San Francisquito Creek between McBean Parkway and Avenida Rancho Tesoro, this developer-led project is part of the Tesoro Highlands development, aimed at improving connectivity and traffic flow. The expansion adds a third lane in each direction, along with sidewalks, a landscaped median, upgraded signals, storm drains, curb ramps and street lighting. A Class I trail connection will also enhance pedestrian and bicycle mobility. Construction is on track to finish this summer, with minimal impact on daytime traffic.



## A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

In recent years, electric bikes (e-bikes) have become a popular and convenient mode of transportation. However, the rise in e-bike use has also led to an increase in accidents across Santa Clarita. Riders disregarding traffic laws – such as weaving between lanes, running red lights and speeding down sidewalks and paths – are putting themselves and others at risk. While e-bikes are a great way to explore the City, it's crucial that riders act responsibly to maintain the safety of our streets and trails.

One key aspect of safe e-bike riding is controlling speed. E-bikes accelerate quickly, and riding too fast increases the chance of accidents. Always adhere to speed limits and adjust speed according to road conditions. Use proper hand signals when turning or changing lanes to alert others of your intentions, and be courteous by signaling early to give others time to react.

Riders should also be mindful of pedestrians, especially in high-traffic areas like our parks, trails and residential neighborhoods. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and be prepared to stop if necessary. To help educate the public and reduce the risk unsafe riding can pose to pedestrians, the Sheriff's Department has conducted several Crime Enforcement Operations throughout the City's paseos and trail systems – and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Understanding the classification of your e-bike is crucial. E-bikes are categorized into three classes (I, II, III), each with specific rules. Be sure to check your bike's classification – your e-bike should have a label on the frame indicating its class – as some e-motorcycles resemble e-bikes but require a Class M license. If unsure about your bike's class, visit a local bike shop for guidance as **e-motorcycles are NOT allowed in the City.**

Helmet use is vital for safety and significantly reduces the risk of injury. Riders 17 and under must wear a helmet at all times, and riders of Class III e-bikes must wear one regardless of age. By following best practices – riding at safe speeds, using signals, yielding to pedestrians and obeying traffic laws – we can help keep Santa Clarita's streets and trails safe and accessible for all.

Sincerely,

Captain Justin Diez



# SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS



Scan the code  
for a full list  
of events!



## SENSES Block Parties

**SENSES Block Parties** are back every **third Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Main Street in Old Town Newhall!** Enjoy exciting themes that transform Main Street, such as the ultimate outdoor Arcade, a Spy Games secret mission and the perfect First Date, with interactive games, delicious food trucks, live music and an on-street bar. Dance, eat and have a great time with friends and family! To learn more, visit [SantaClarita.gov/SENSES](http://SantaClarita.gov/SENSES).



## Celebrate Series

This year, you don't need a plane ticket to travel to another country! Explore the world at the **Celebrate** event series, held every **second Friday from May through September, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Canyon Country Community Center (18410 Sierra Highway)**! Experience diverse cultures and customs through hands-on activities, international cuisines and live performances that transport you across the globe. Don't miss this vibrant celebration of traditions from around the world! For more information, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/Celebrate](http://SantaClarita.gov/Celebrate).



## Concerts in the Park

Get ready to rock this summer at **Concerts in the Park**, presented by **Logix Federal Credit Union!** **Celebrating 35 years at Central Park (27150 Bouquet Canyon Road)**, come sing and dance **every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. from July 12 through August 30**. Enjoy a stellar lineup of cover bands performing for you live at this hometown-favorite, free outdoor event. Arrive early to grab a prime spot, savor delicious bites from local food trucks and soak up the summer vibes. Don't miss this tradition with your friends, family and neighbors! For more information, visit [SantaClarita.gov/Concerts](http://SantaClarita.gov/Concerts).



## FestAbility

Come celebrate Santa Clarita's special needs community and their families at **FestAbility**, presented by **UCLA Health**, for its fourth year in a row, on **Sunday, May 4, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at West Creek Park (24247 Village Circle Drive)**! Formerly known as Free To Be Me Festival, this event features an inclusive playground, live music, adaptive performances, active storytelling, face-painting and more! FestAbility is free and open to residents of all ages and abilities. To learn more, visit [SantaClarita.gov/FestAbility](http://SantaClarita.gov/FestAbility).



## City Cinemas

Enjoy your favorite movies under the stars at **City Cinemas!** This free, outdoor event returns **every fourth Friday from June through October** at different locations each month. Bring a blanket, grab dinner from an on-site food truck and settle in for a night of cinematic fun. Stay tuned for the full lineup, and for more information, visit [SantaClarita.gov/CityCinemas](http://SantaClarita.gov/CityCinemas).



## Fourth of July

Get ready for Santa Clarita's most patriotic celebration of the year, the **Fourth of July Parade and Spirit of America Fireworks Spectacular!** Arrive early to secure your spot as dazzling floats, classic cars, firetrucks and more roll through Old Town Newhall adorned with vibrant red, white and blue. As night falls, look to the sky above the Valencia Town Center for a breathtaking fireworks display that lights up the City in true Independence Day spirit!



### Shop Local/Eat Local

Santa Clarita's local businesses are the heart of our community, fueling its growth and character. When you shop and dine locally, you support essential services and help maintain the City's exceptional quality of life. Don't miss **Santa Clarita Spotlight**, a video series created in partnership with SCVTV that showcases unique, local businesses. Embrace the charm of shopping and dining close to home and be part of building a thriving Santa Clarita for generations to come. For more information, visit [ThinkSantaClarita.com](http://ThinkSantaClarita.com).



### Summer Reading Program 2025

Get ready to level up your summer at the Santa Clarita Public Library! This year's **Summer Reading Program** is packed with adventure, creativity and tons of fun, all centered around the theme "**Level Up at Your Library.**" From June 9 to July 26, join us for an action-packed summer filled with activities like video games, role-playing, sports, pretend play, learning new skills, collaborative challenges and puzzles! Each Library Branch will host a variety of exciting sessions designed to engage minds and spark imagination. Plus, readers can join online reading challenges and earn awesome prizes along the way. **The grand finale is on Saturday, July 26, at the Old Town Newhall Branch from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,** where we'll wrap up the summer with a fantastic celebration for the whole family! For more details and to stay updated on all the fun, visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com). Let's make this summer one to remember – explore, learn and play at your Library!



### Find Your Perfect Companion – Adopt a Pet Today!

Did you know that adopting a pet can reduce stress, boost physical activity and bring unconditional love into your life? The City of Santa Clarita, in partnership with the **Castaic Animal Care Center**, makes it easy for residents to find their perfect furry friend. Whether you're looking for a cuddle-loving cat or an adventurous hiking buddy, countless animals are waiting for a loving home. Visit the Castaic Animal Care Center Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or browse available pets online at [AnimalCare.LACounty.gov](http://AnimalCare.LACounty.gov). Give a pet a second chance – they'll change your life in return!

### RSC – Access City Services Online

Access City services without ever leaving your home. From reporting graffiti to applying for permits, the City has made it easier than ever to get things done online. Whether you're submitting requests through the **Resident Service Center (RSC)** or navigating the Virtual Planning Counter for your next construction project, the convenience of digital access is just a click away. Visit [SantaClarita.gov/RSC](http://SantaClarita.gov/RSC).



## A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

By now, **Santa Clarita residents are well aware** that certain areas of the City are especially vulnerable to wildland fires. Many of you may have personal experiences with these fires, and many of you may also have experienced the evacuation process. This issue is top of mind in light of what we recently experienced with the Palisades, Eaton, Hurst, Kenneth and Hughes Fires, all of which occurred in January, and two of which caused wide-spread devastation to the Altadena and Pacific Palisades/Malibu communities.

CalFire, the state agency responsible for identifying **Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)**, released updated FHSZ maps last month. These maps were last updated in 2011. The new maps are now available at [OSFM.Fire.CA.gov/FHSZ](http://OSFM.Fire.CA.gov/FHSZ). Once on that site, you will be able to enter your address to see if you are now included in one of the fire zones. We suspect that residents who are currently in a fire zone will undoubtedly remain there, and that there may be a substantial number of new properties that have been added.

While there currently exists only the **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ)** in the **Local Responsibility Area (LRA)**, the new maps will break down the severity zones into Very High, High and Moderate, so it will be important for everyone to check the map to verify which degree of severity applies to their property, if any.

For those of you who received your **Annual Notice of Defensible Space Inspections**, we would like to remind you that, once again, we will **NOT** be enforcing AB-3074 (Zone 0) this year, which is the 5-foot ember resistant zone, with the exception of vines and climbing plants, which have always been a part of the fire code and enforced.

For the properties that are being added to the new LRA maps this year, you will **NOT** be subject to defensible space inspections until next year.

A common question we hear from residents is: "Why is my home included in a fire zone when I don't live near brush?" One of the biggest reasons is ember cast – a key factor in fire spread. During a wildfire, burning embers can travel up to a mile through the air, landing on rooftops, dry landscaping or other flammable materials, where they can start new fires. This is why homes that seem far from direct fire danger may still be at risk. The Palisades and Eaton Fires demonstrated how ember cast can quickly spread fires in areas not directly adjacent to wildland.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your local firefighters. They are here to help keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

**Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel**



### Be a Heads Up! Driver - Pull to the Right

When emergency vehicles are responding to a crisis, every second matters. Whether it's our Sheriff's, Fire or medical responders, they rely on quick response times to save lives. That's why it's critical to be a **Heads Up!** driver and pull to the right and stop when you see flashing lights and hear sirens.

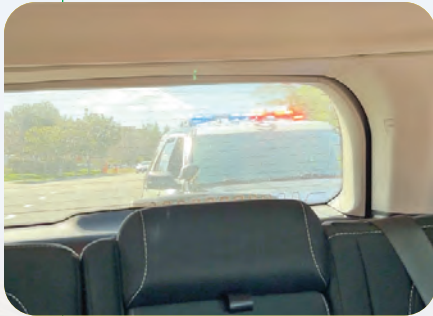
#### What to Do:

- Stay alert – check your mirrors and listen for sirens.
- Signal and safely pull to the right.
- Come to a full stop and wait until emergency vehicles pass.
- Clear intersections first, then pull over.

#### What Not to Do:

- Don't panic or slam on your brakes.
- Don't stop in the middle of the road.
- Don't follow or try to outrun emergency vehicles.

Imagine if your loved one needed help – your actions can save lives. It's simple, it's safe and it's the law. Pull to the right and let them through! For more safe driving tips, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp](http://SantaClarita.gov/HeadsUp).



### Parenting for Prevention – DFY in SCV

How prepared are you to have difficult, yet crucial conversations about drugs and alcohol with your children? With the rise in local drug-related incidents, it's more important than ever for parents to be equipped with the tools to engage in these essential discussions. Rather than a one-time initiative, the **Parenting for Prevention Campaign** offers ongoing support and education throughout the year. This program helps families navigate tough conversations, create lasting prevention strategies and provides expert tools to empower parents in fostering an environment where healthy choices are encouraged and supported. Follow [@CityofSantaClarita](https://www.instagram.com/CityofSantaClarita) on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube, as well as [@DFYinSCV](https://www.instagram.com/DFYinSCV) on Instagram and Facebook for updates. For more information, including tips and resources, visit [DFY.SantaClarita.gov/Parents](http://DFY.SantaClarita.gov/Parents).



### Commemorative Brick Program

Have you checked out the **Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall**? Lining this peaceful, idyllic location, you will see bricks inscribed with the names of City of Santa Clarita community members who have selflessly fought to preserve the freedoms we cherish today. With Memorial Day upcoming, spring is the perfect time to enjoy a walk around the Plaza and pay respects to our local heroes. If you, or someone you know, is looking to highlight one of the brave men or women who have served our country, and would like to participate in the **Commemorative Brick Program**, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/Veterans](http://SantaClarita.gov/Veterans).



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### The State of the City Newsletter

is published by the City of Santa Clarita Communications Division

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