



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**



# **STATE OF THE CITY**

## **FALL/WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER**

# *Celebrating* **HART PARK:** *History in Every Frame*

Mayor Bill Miranda, Mayor Pro Tem Laurene Weste,  
Councilmember Patsy Ayala, Councilmember Jason Gibbs and Councilwoman Marsha McLean

**SANTACLARITA.GOV**



# CELEBRATING OUR WESTERN ROOTS IN THE HART OF OUR CITY

**It is a milestone, decades in the making.** Historic **William S. Hart Park** (24151 Newhall Avenue) is now officially part of the City of Santa Clarita's park system. This gem in the middle of Old Town Newhall is one of the key locations that our City grew up around. It was the home of silent film star William S. Hart who rose to fame in the early 20th century. He was the premiere Western star of the era and was known for imbuing all of his gritty western characters with honor and integrity.

It is truly an honor for the City of Santa Clarita to be entrusted with caring for his legacy moving forward. He left his home and the surrounding land to the County of Los Angeles – and as of this summer – the 160+ acres of parkland, trails, historic structures, wildlife and barnyard creatures are now part of the City.

This monumental transition means the beloved events and activities the park is known for, will be enhanced and expanded for the benefit and enjoyment of residents. This includes the world-famous **Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival** which takes place each spring, the cultural celebration that is the **Hart of the West Pow Wow** and the popular **Silents Under the Stars**, which honors his legacy.

Families can continue to visit the many animals that call Hart Park home. The barnyard has been a beloved location for generations introducing children and parents alike to the pigs, alpacas, emu,

horses, donkeys, cows, deer, tortoises and more. A unique wildlife feature at the park, is the herd of wild bison that was gifted to Hart Park back in 1962 by Walt Disney himself. The descendants of that herd still roam the back side of the park today. Safely fenced off from visitors, these massive animals are always exciting to spot on the hillsides, much as they were more than 60-years-ago.





## A Message from **CITY MANAGER** **KEN STRIPLIN**

**This winter marks an important milestone for our City** — the culmination of the **Santa Clarita 2025 Strategic Plan**. Five years ago, we set out on an ambitious path to anticipate community needs, prioritize goals and invest in projects that would elevate the quality of life for our residents. Today, as we close this chapter, we can look back on the meaningful results that have enhanced our City on a variety of fronts.

Guided by our City Council and shaped by the input of our residents, businesses and staff, SC 2025 became a blueprint for action. What began as a vision has taken root across Santa Clarita, creating new amenities, services and opportunities that will benefit generations to come.

One of the most visible accomplishments was the opening of the **Canyon Country Community Center**, now a bustling hub for learning, recreation and cultural events like the **Celebrate** series. Public Safety remained a top priority, marked by the opening of the new **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station** and the deployment of a **Mobile Command Unit**. Both of these milestones will help maintain Santa Clarita's reputation as one of the safest cities in the nation.

Our parks also flourished. The historic **William S. Hart Park** officially became part of our park system, **Central Park** dazzled with the debut of **River of Lights** and **Old Orchard Park** reopened with long-awaited upgrades. The expansion at **David March Park** is adding a new baseball field and the City's second exercise staircase.

Transportation infrastructure advanced with the **Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center**, while compassion guided investments in a new shelter at **Bridge to Home** and transitional housing through **Family Promise**.

**Santa Clarita 2025** has delivered lasting results. More importantly, it has built a strong foundation for what comes next — ensuring our City continues to thrive as a safe, innovative and welcoming community for all.

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

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The site also contains several historic buildings – filled with priceless Western artifacts that depict what it was like living in the Wild West more than a century ago. The **Hart Museum** is a rarity in the museum world: a collection of unique structures, with most of the original contents intact. The house contains not just the furnishings that Hart chose, but also his books, artwork, clothing and memorabilia. William S. Hart portrayed his vision of the West on screen as well as in his home, filling it with Western art, Native American beadwork and textiles, as well as theatrical and film memorabilia. Will Rogers, Charlie Russell, Wyatt Earp and Amelia Earhart are a few of Hart's friends, whose gifts are on display.

William S. Hart Park's story is one of heritage, community and vision and now, as part of Santa Clarita's park system, its next chapter is just beginning. With every visit, whether you're watching the bison roam the hillsides, exploring the historic buildings or enjoying one of the many events that bring our community together, you are experiencing a living link to the City's past and an inspiring promise for its future.





SCAN THE  
CODE FOR A  
FULL LIST OF  
ONGOING  
PROJECTS!

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES

## Old Orchard Park is Open!

One of Santa Clarita's original parks has officially reopened after a complete transformation! Originally developed in 1968, **Old Orchard Park** (25023 Ave Rotella) now features a reimagined playground designed for fun and adventure. Kids can climb a faux rock wall, scramble up a rope ladder, slide down new equipment and explore a turf-covered mound made for climbing and rolling. A large shade structure keeps the play area comfortable and the restroom has been reconfigured for ADA-accessibility. Sport lovers will also enjoy the new multi-sport court, perfect for basketball, futsal and more, while the existing basketball court now includes overlays for pickleball, giving residents another place to play! Don't forget to check out the newest piece of public art, **Dreams of the Golden Oak**, a sculpture honoring Santa Clarita's oak trees.



## Step Back in Time at Pioneer Oil Refinery Park!

Did you know that the **Pioneer Oil Refinery Park** is open? Officially the City's 39th park, the Pioneer Oil Refinery dates back to 1876 when the California Star Oil Works, now known as Chevron, established the first successful oil refinery in California. Today, the park invites visitors to explore our community's rich Western history and see the original structures once used to process petroleum from nearby Pico Canyon into kerosene. In addition to its historical significance, the park offers restrooms and a shaded gazebo, the perfect spot to enjoy lunch or spend an afternoon learning about our past. The Pioneer Oil Refinery Park is open to the public and located in Newhall at the corner of Needham Ranch Parkway and Pioneer Way.



## Explore the River of Lights!

Have you experienced the **River of Lights** yet? Now open at **Central Park** (27150 Bouquet Canyon Road), this one-of-a-kind walk-through amenity brings a mesmerizing light experience to our community. Hundreds of LED lights illuminate the plaza walkway, flow up the mountainside and shine along the 172-step exercise staircase. At the heart of the plaza stands *When 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. Whether you are watching a soccer practice, jogging the trails or visiting the dog park, you won't want to miss the stunning light show.

## David March Park is Expanding!

Construction is well underway on the **David March Park Expansion Project**, which will add another eight acres to the park. The expansion will feature the City's second exercise staircase – a challenging 116-step climb with sweeping views along with a brand-new baseball field complete with shaded spectator seating for local games and events. The existing park (28310 North Via Joyce Drive) is also being upgraded and will reopen in early 2026. Visitors can look forward to new outdoor exercise equipment, a covered picnic pavilion, a new basketball court, a shade structure over the playground and expanded parking. The full project is anticipated to be completed in spring 2026.





### **The Rink Pavilion Has Gone Vertical!**

Get ready, Santa Clarita – **The Rink Sports Pavilion** is taking shape at the **Santa Clarita Sports Complex** (20870 Centre Pointe Parkway)! With site grading complete and the construction now vertical, this 25,700-square-foot facility is set to bring nonstop fun and recreation to the community. At its core, The Rink will feature a brand-new roller skating rink designed with sports overlays for basketball, pickleball and volleyball. Visitors can also look forward to a commercial kitchen, spectator seating, dedicated birthday party areas, lockers and skate rentals. More than just a rink, this space is being designed as a hub for recreation, celebration and community fun! The Rink is on track to roll out the welcome mat in summer of 2026.

### **NEW TRAILS TAKE SHAPE AT HASKELL CANYON BIKE PARK**

Ready to shift your next adventure into high gear? Construction is underway on Santa Clarita's brand-new **Haskell Canyon Bike Park**, set to open in winter 2025. Located within 720 acres of rugged open space, the park will feature more than 15 miles of cross-country, climbing and downhill trails – plus slopestyle lines, dual slalom courses, beginner and advanced pump tracks and a skills learning zone. Designed with mountain bikers in mind, Haskell Canyon Bike Park will provide challenging terrain, panoramic views and a destination for riders to connect with nature and the sport year-round.



## *A Message from* **SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN BRANDON BARCLAY**

Stepping into the role of Captain for the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station this year has been both a privilege and a responsibility I hold with great pride. Our Valley is unique, not only in its natural beauty and growing neighborhoods, but in the way this community looks out for one another. As your local Sheriff's Station, our mission is to build on that spirit of connection while ensuring the safety and security of every resident.

Public safety in Santa Clarita extends far beyond enforcement. It is about presence – being visible in our neighborhoods, schools, parks and businesses. It is about prevention – working with parents, educators and youth to guide the next generation toward safe and healthy choices. And it is about preparation – standing ready for the challenges we face together, from wildfires to crime trends that affect our daily lives.

Our deputies are working hard to combat retail theft crews, suppress gang activity and keep our streets safe from impaired and reckless drivers. We are equally focused on strengthening partnerships with the City, local schools and community organizations so that safety remains a shared responsibility.

As the year unfolds, you'll see us not only on patrol but also side by side with you at community events like the Haunted Jail House, Light Up Main Street and our favorite, Concerts in the Park! These moments reflect what makes Santa Clarita strong: a partnership between residents and those who serve them.

I look forward to leading with transparency, accountability and a deep commitment to our Valley's future.

Sincerely,

**Brandon Barclay**  
Captain, SCV Sheriff's Station

# AROUND THE CITY...



## The Cube!

**The Cube Ice and Entertainment Center**, powered by **FivePoint Valencia**, is your home for skating, hockey and year-round fun on the ice. Registration is now open for **Learn-to-Skate classes**, offering options for every age and ability. The Cube proudly hosts **SNAP's Developmental Skating Program** every Wednesday, ensuring inclusive opportunities for skaters with special needs. Families and friends can also enjoy regular **Public Skate** sessions, a perfect way to glide into the season together. Add some extra magic to your holiday this year by skating around the Christmas tree, before sliding over to **The Grille** for a quick bite, or **The Top Shelf** to quench that thirst. Beyond the ice, The Cube (27745 Smyth Drive) is the perfect venue for birthday parties, corporate outings and special events, with flexible spaces and tailored packages to suit every need. For more information, visit [TheCubeSantaClarita.com](http://TheCubeSantaClarita.com).



## Shop/Eat Local

Local businesses are the backbone of Santa Clarita, and when you shop and dine locally, your hard-earned dollars 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. 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, Santa Clarita-based businesses. For more information, go to [VisitSantaClarita.com](http://VisitSantaClarita.com).

## Beep, Beep – You've Got a Friend at City Hall!

Did you know there are more than 500 full-time City of Santa Clarita employees working across 20 divisions in eight different departments? Each one plays a vital role in providing the resources, programs, services and projects that benefit you – our residents. This month, we're spotlighting the **Transit Division!** With fast, reliable service, **Santa Clarita Transit** can take you just about anywhere you want to go. Equipped with the latest technology – including live bus tracking, mobile ticketing and onboard Wi-Fi – passengers can travel with ease throughout the Santa Clarita Valley and beyond. Be sure to follow the City on social media to learn more and meet the people who keep Santa Clarita moving!



## Parenting for Prevention Guiding the Next Generation

The City of Santa Clarita's **Parenting for Prevention** program is here to equip parents and caregivers with tools to help children make healthy, positive choices. This year's program features a bilingual podcast, in-person parent sessions and a social media campaign designed to keep families informed and connected. Through conversations with trusted community voices, families will learn about current drug trends, how to help youth handle peer pressure and practical ways to strengthen communication at home. Parenting for Prevention is a local resource created to support parents in guiding the next generation with confidence, knowledge and care. Visit [DFY.SantaClarita.gov/Parents](http://DFY.SantaClarita.gov/Parents).

## 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).





SCAN THE  
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FULL LIST  
OF EVENTS!

# FALL/WINTER EVENTS



## A Message from ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL



### Light Up Main Street

Kick off the holiday season with **Light Up Main Street**, presented by DrinkPAK! On **Saturday, November 15, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, Old Town Newhall will dazzle as five blocks of Main Street glow with tens of thousands of sparkling lights. Enjoy live performances, delicious food trucks, holiday shopping, kids' crafts and photo opportunities perfect for capturing all the memories. At dusk, gather for the breathtaking tree lighting ceremony that officially ushers in the season. Bring friends and family to celebrate a night of holiday cheer. For more information, please visit [OldTownNewhall.com](http://OldTownNewhall.com).

### Veterans Day

Join us in honoring local heroes at the **Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Historical Plaza** (24275 Walnut Street). Presented with local veterans' groups, this annual tribute salutes the men and women who have served our nation with courage and sacrifice. The program will feature inspiring guest speakers, patriotic performances and a ceremonial changing of the flags. All are invited to attend! For more information, please visit [SantaClarita.gov/Events](http://SantaClarita.gov/Events).



### Step Right Up to the 18th Annual Family Literacy Festival!

Join the **Santa Clarita Public Library** for this year's **Family Literacy Festival on Saturday, December 6, at the Old Town Newhall Branch** (24500 Main Street), where books and big-top fun come together for an unforgettable day! Families will enjoy live bands, a colorful piñata and hands-on arts and crafts inspired by our circus theme. The festival also coincides with our weekly Farmers Market, giving you the chance to browse fresh local goods while celebrating the joy of reading. With activities for all ages, the Family Literacy Festival is the perfect way to spark creativity, encourage learning and spend quality time together. Don't miss the magic! For more information, please visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com).

**When you think of firefighters**, you likely picture them battling flames. But the Los Angeles County Fire Department's work extends far beyond fire suppression. As the Assistant Fire Chief for Division 3, which includes the Santa Clarita Valley, I am responsible for overseeing all emergency and fire station operations. Let's take a look at some of the different areas of fire prevention and safety:

The **Emergency Operations Bureau** and **Community Risk Reduction Bureau** do have limited overlap, however, the main distinction is that Emergency Operations responds to and mitigates emergency incidents, while Prevention's main focus is ensuring those incidents don't occur at all. Included in mitigating emergency incidents, and where overlap occurs, is that the local fire stations also conduct annual brush inspections, as well as inspecting small businesses.

The **Fire Prevention Division**, part of the Community Risk Reduction Bureau, focuses on educating the community about the benefits of proper safety practices, and works to identify and eliminate hazards. Locally, Captain Jason Nuesca is in charge of the Santa Clarita Fire Prevention Office, while Assistant Fire Chief Richard Stillwagon currently serves as the Department's Fire Marshal.

There are several units within Fire Prevention, all of which have unique responsibilities. Regional Units conduct new construction and annual business inspections and plan checks for building, processes and fire extinguishing systems. The **Codes & Ordinances Unit** conducts research and meets regularly with architects and government officials in order to propose changes to the International Fire Code and the International Building Code.

The **Land Development Unit** sets conditions with regard to water and access. The **Petroleum/Chemical Unit** inspects and issues permits for plants that manufacture, use and store hazardous materials and explosives. The **Arson Unit** responds to significant fires to determine cause or assist law enforcement in the investigation of suspected arson. The **Public Safety and Film Unit** reviews applications and issues permits for filming, public assemblies and other events that may require on-site personnel to ensure safety and compliance. Finally, our **Schools and Institutions Unit** conducts annual safety inspections in all schools, private and community colleges, camps and various residential, day care, medical and detention facilities.

Through fire prevention and emergency response, the Los Angeles County Fire Department is proud to provide valuable, life-saving services.

Sincerely,

**Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel**  
**Los Angeles County Fire Department**

Helping socially anxious burglars feel seen...just enough to run away.

# LioLi<sup>HE</sup>™

**LockItorLoseltHome**

**Avoidant behavior. Aversion to light. Irrational fear of dogs.**  
Approximately 78% of burglars exhibit an inability to approach illuminated entryways, particularly those equipped with motion-activated lighting and cameras – a pattern consistent with **Criminal Exposure Sensitivity (CES)**.

But there's **hope**. Introducing **LockItorLoselt – Home Edition (LioLi<sup>HE</sup>)** – the first line of defense for homes and the first step in exposure therapy for burglars.

**78% of home burglars suffer from CES.**

**LioLi<sup>HE</sup> helps guide individuals with CES through key therapeutic breakthroughs:**

- Motion-activated lights remind them: **You exist.**
- Security cameras offer validation: **You are seen (and captured on 1080p).** Try another life choice.
- Smart locks encourage behavioral redirection:
- And when taken with dog, LioLi<sup>HE</sup> dramatically reduces the urge to linger, snoop or steal.

To see if LioLi<sup>HE</sup> is right for you, visit [SantaClarita.gov/LockItorLoselt](https://SantaClarita.gov/LockItorLoselt)

Brought to you by Mayor Bill Miranda, Mayor Pro Tem Laurene Weste, Councilmember Patsy Ayala, Councilmember Jason Gibbs and Councilwoman Marsha McLean.

Side effects may include a sudden floodiness with neighbors over that "you're the one with cameras", sudden urge to use the in-home microphone to vent your dog "what a good boy" and an increase of family photos, like "holding children prisoner" and "these children made us do it!"

## LockItorLoselt<sup>HE</sup>

Did you know that **Criminal Exposure Sensitivity (CES)** affects nearly 78% of burglars? Many of those suffering from CES show a marked inability to approach well-lit, camera-equipped homes. Fortunately, there's help – for both them and you. **LockItorLoseltHome (LioLi<sup>HE</sup>)** is an effective, new program to help make your home as unappealing as possible to would-be intruders. By activating motion lights, reinforcing entry points and installing cameras, **LioLi<sup>HE</sup>** provides a layered deterrent strategy proven to increase panic, reinforce boundaries and encourage immediate retreat – all while keeping your home safer, brighter and confidently secure. Experts say it's the perfect combination of prevention and passive exposure therapy. The results? Homes stay safe, burglars feel seen (briefly) and neighborhoods win. Visit [SantaClarita.gov/LioLi](https://SantaClarita.gov/LioLi) to begin your treatment plan. No prescription needed.



## Follow the City on Social Media!

Stay informed and connected with everything happening in the City of Santa Clarita by following us on social media! From upcoming events and fun activities to emergency updates, traffic alerts and important City news – it's all just a tap away. Whether you're planning your weekend or navigating your commute, our feeds deliver real-time information you can trust. Join our online community and be the first to know what's going on in your City. Follow us today on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, **X** (formerly Twitter), **Tik Tok**, **YouTube** and more – just search **@CityofSantaClarita** or visit [SantaClarita.gov/Social](https://SantaClarita.gov/Social) for more information.

**¿Hablas español?** ¡También tenemos contenido para ti! Sigue nuestra cuenta en español en **Facebook y Instagram: @CiudadDeSantaClarita.**



## Santa Clarita City Store

Show your Santa Clarita pride in style! From cozy hoodies to sleek caps and colorful tees, the City of Santa Clarita's official merchandise has something for everyone. Shop limited in-person items at the

Permit Center at City Hall or explore our full collection online – with a wide variety of sizes, colors and designs to choose from. Whether you're repping your hometown or gifting some local flair, it's a great way to support your City. Browse now by scanning the QR code or visit [SantaClarita.gov/Store](https://SantaClarita.gov/Store) and wear your City pride proudly!

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



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