



# THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

# STATE OF THE CITY

NEWSLETTER - SPRING/SUMMER 2019

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Mayor Marsha McLean, Mayor Pro Tem Cameron Smyth,  
Councilmembers Bob Kellar, Bill Miranda and Laurene Weste

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

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# CREATING COMMUNITY

The connections we make, opportunities available to us and places we get to explore all add to our sense of community. The City of Santa Clarita strives to build upon our strong foundation and continues to create a community where residents of every age live, work, play and thrive.

## Canyon Country Community Center

Nothing says creating community like a brand-new community center! In March, the City of Santa Clarita broke ground at the site of the future **Canyon Country Community Center**. Located on the corner of Soledad Canyon Road and Sierra Highway, the nine-acre site has been cleared and prepped for construction to begin. Over the next two years you will notice a magnificent transformation from dirt lot to beautiful facility that not only improves the aesthetics of the area, but offers residents from across the City a place to learn, connect, get active and take part in community events. The new Canyon Country Community Center is a cornerstone of our **Santa Clarita 2020 strategic plan** under the theme of **Building and Creating Community**.



## Sheriff's Station

Another major project in **Santa Clarita 2020**, which is creating community by enhancing the efficiency of our partners at the **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station**, is a brand-new facility. The new Sheriff's Station is taking shape on Golden Valley Road. It will replace the current facility that has been home to our deputies, dispatchers and detectives since the 1970's. On track to open at the end of 2020, this station is centrally located and will provide our deputies with the space they need to provide top-notch public safety services now and into the future.

## Cowboy Festival

The essence of **Creating Community** is coming together as a community. One of the ways Santa Clarita residents have been doing just that for the past 25 years is at our always popular **Cowboy Festival!** This year will be no exception, as all the music, food, vendors and wild west fun returns to **William S. Hart Park April 13 and 14**, with some tasty additions. Get ready to tempt your taste buds with the most tantalizing barbecue this side of the Mississippi. This year's Cowboy Festival will include a hot and spicy **Chili Cook-Off** on Sunday that will benefit Bridge to Home. Find out more on Page 6.



## Homelessness

A major part of **Creating Community** is ensuring that all the members of our community have basic life essentials, like a roof over their heads. To that end, the City and key service providers have been diligently making progress on our **Community Plan to Address Homelessness**. Step one was creating the **Community Task Force on Homelessness**. That Task Force has been formed and is now meeting regularly as a whole and in committees, each tasked with taking on different action items within the plan. Thanks to support from the **City and Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Bridge to Home** (the major homeless service provider in our community) has committed to keeping its shelter open year-round. Now those experiencing homelessness will always have a place to go to connect with resources, sleep, shower and begin the transition into permanent housing.

The City of Santa Clarita has long been hailed as the ideal place to raise a family, set up a business and enjoy all the natural beauty Southern California has to offer. Your City is working hard every day creating community!

# TRAFFIC SAFETY

*a message from  
the City Manager  
Ken Striplin*



An essential part of **Creating Community** is ensuring residents can move safely and smoothly throughout our community, to get where they need to go, do the things they enjoy doing and to be with the people they love.

The City of Santa Clarita is accomplishing this through infrastructure projects and regular road maintenance. Some of the most notable projects that were recently completed are the **Newhall Ranch Road Bridge Widening** and the **Sierra Highway Pedestrian Bridge**. The Newhall Ranch Road Bridge now offers one extra lane of travel in each direction, plus enhanced trail connections and protected bike lanes.

The Sierra Highway Pedestrian Bridge makes it safer for students at Golden Valley High School to walk to and from school. The project also added improvements to the sidewalks, medians, landscaping and traffic patterns. Left turn pockets allow for more efficient and safe driving through the intersection.

I am pleased to report that the work of our **Traffic Safety Team** once again paid off in safer Santa Clarita streets. The team is comprised of the Sheriff's Department and the City's Communications, Traffic and Engineering divisions. Working together through targeted enforcement, engineering improvements and educational outreach – for the second year in a row there was a significant drop in traffic accidents. We saw our collision rate drop by 14 percent and our injury collision rate by 12 percent. In 2017 and 2018, there were **ZERO** pedestrian or cyclist fatalities.

Please always remember to avoid distractions and follow the rules of the road to help improve traffic safety.

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager

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

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES

In 2018 the City ranked third in the nation by Pennygeeks as **Best Place to Live in the United States**

Sheriff's Station. Thanks to their passion, hard work and dedication, 2018 wrapped up with the lowest crime rate on record for the City of Santa Clarita.

That One crimes are down 20 percent from 2017. That One crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, burglary and arson. This drop is due to the proactive efforts, crime suppression operations and the all-around dedication of our Sheriff's Deputies.

Our deputies are impacting crime through special operations, directed patrol tactics, targeted traffic enforcement, specialized deployments, the apprehension

## CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER

A gorgeous, new 25,000 square foot community center is coming to Canyon Country on a City-owned, eight-acre site, located on the northeast corner of Soledad Canyon Road and Sierra Highway. The site was cleared this year and is now set for staff to begin grading and finalizing design plans. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in the summer of 2019 and once complete, the Center will offer the community more opportunities to participate in free and low-cost activities. In addition, residents will enjoy a new park which will provide outdoor activities including a play area, half-court basketball, courtyards and plazas, event area, walkways and landscaping. This project supports the Santa Clarita 2020 theme of Building and Creating Community.

Work is underway at the construction site of the future Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, along Golden Valley Road, between Centre Pointe Parkway and Robert C. Lee Parkway. The new station will replace the current station that has been in use since the 1970s, and once open, deputies will have a 46,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility. The Sheriff Station will feature a detached, 4,000-square-foot vehicle

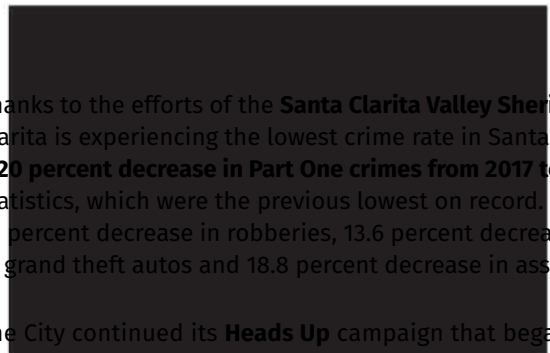
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Robert Lewis



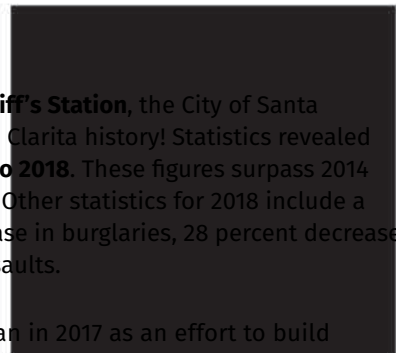
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Thanks to the efforts of the **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station**, the City of Santa Clarita is experiencing the lowest crime rate in Santa Clarita history! Statistics revealed a **20 percent decrease in Part One crimes from 2017 to 2018**. These figures surpass 2014 statistics, which were the previous lowest on record. Other statistics for 2018 include a 23 percent decrease in robberies, 13.6 percent decrease in burglaries, 28 percent decrease in grand theft autos and 18.8 percent decrease in assaults.

The City continued its **Heads Up** campaign that began in 2017 as an effort to build awareness about distractions on the roadway for drivers and pedestrians. In 2018, the traffic collision rate dropped 14 percent, exceeding the City's goal of 10 percent, and once again there were **ZERO** pedestrian and cyclist fatalities. The City's injury collision rate decreased by 12 percent. 2018 now boasts the lowest traffic collision and injury collision rates since 2001. Visit [santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp](http://santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp) for more information regarding traffic efforts. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in the summer of 2019 and once complete, the Center will offer the community more opportunities to participate in free and low-cost activities. In addition, residents will enjoy a new park which will provide outdoor activities including a play area, half-court basketball, courtyards and plazas, event



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throughout the residents and visit bike share program is healthiest city enhancing tourism efforts supports the Santa Clarita 2020 theme of Building and Creating Community. 2018 Named one of the healthiest cities by Viewfinder 2018 Santa Clarita was ranked

## NEWHALL RANCH ROAD BRIDGE WIDENING

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## 70 ARCHERY RANGE

The City of Santa Clarita has partnered with local nonprofit group **SCV Archery** to bring a new archery range to the Santa Clarita Valley! The range opened in February 2019 and is located on the Haskell Canyon Open Space. The archery range joins a variety of other outdoor spaces for residents to use, and will offer one-on-one coaching and group events. Classes will also be offered in the fall 2019 edition of the *Season* magazine. The City hopes to encourage residents to get outdoors and give community members the chance to get outdoors and try archery. For more information, visit [scv-archery.com](http://scv-archery.com).



## SANTA CLARITA METROLINK STATION

Anticipating new eco-friendly initiatives for community. The Santa Clarita Metrolink Station on Soledad Canyon Road will allow residents to pay to charge their cars in 30-minute increments, and this project supports the Santa Clarita 2020 theme of Building and Creating Community.

## PACE BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

The Pace Bike Share Program consists of 50 bikes and 12 bike stations located throughout the City. The user-friendly Pace app allows residents to rent bikes and explore the miles of paved trails in Santa Clarita. The program is designed to provide residents with a new way to explore the City, while supporting the Santa Clarita 2020 theme of Building and Creating Community.

## GOLDEN VALLEY ROAD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Residents in Canyon Country know the intersection of Sierra Highway and Golden Valley Road is busy, particularly during rush hour. To increase pedestrian safety and allow simpler connections for residents on Golden Valley Road, the City partnered with Caltrans to make improvements to the intersection. The installation of the new pedestrian bridge over Sierra Highway, the project supports the Santa Clarita 2020 theme of Sustaining Public Infrastructure.

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### COWBOY FESTIVAL

The **Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival** will be back this year on April 13-14 to celebrate its 26th year! The festival, *presented by California Resources Corporation*, will take place at **William S. Hart Park**. The City's Western heritage is set to take center stage at the annual festival, which will feature performances, activities, food and more that will transport you to the days of the Old West. Guests will also enjoy **FREE admission!** Festivities will begin on Thursday, April 11, with the **Walk of Western Stars Inductee Unveiling and Induction Ceremony**. After, guests can keep the wagon rolling with different ticketed activities throughout **Old Town Newhall**.

Some of the activities at the Cowboy Festival this year include the **Chili Cook-Off competition** and the **Historical Bus Tour of Santa Clarita Valley**. This year's festival is sure to be one for the books! Visit **CowboyFestival.org** for more information.



### CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Don't miss the hottest performances of the year at Central Park! The summer's popular **Concerts in the Park series**, *presented by Logix Federal Credit Union*, returns to Santa Clarita every Saturday evening in July and August, and is free for all attendees. Arrive early to claim your seat in front of the stage! This year's lineup includes some old favorites and entertaining newcomers. The full summer schedule will be announced next month on **santa-clarita.com/Concerts**.



### EARTH ARBOR DAY

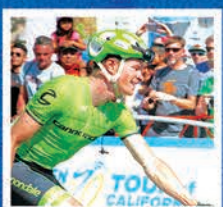
Go Green at the **2019 Earth Arbor Day Festival**, *presented by SCV Water*. The event will be combined with the **KHTS Santa Clarita Home and Garden Show**, the **Emergency Expo**, and the **KHTS Arts and Crafts Fair at Central Park**. The Earth Arbor Day Festival takes place on April 27, while the remainder of the events will happen on April 27 and 28. The Earth Day celebration brings together thousands of residents to learn about sustainable and eco-friendly resources, hear from educators and visit with local sustainable vendors. To learn more, visit **GreenSantaClarita.com**.



### AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

The **Amgen Tour of California** is returning to Santa Clarita on Saturday, May 18! Throughout seven stages over seven days (May 12-18), the world's elite professional cyclists will ride a 777.6 mile course from Sacramento to Pasadena.

Santa Clarita will host the start for the final stage of both the men's and women's races as cyclists sprint to the finish line in Pasadena. To learn more about this world-class cycling event, visit **SantaClaritaTourofCA.com**.



### THURSDAYS AT NEWHALL

**Thursdays@Newhall** brings energy and excitement to the **Arts and Entertainment District in Old Town Newhall** on Thursday nights. Enjoy a unique variety show at **10 by 10** on the first Thursday of the month at **The MAIN**, then learn new dance styles at **JAM Sessions** on the second Thursday at the **Newhall Community Center**. The popular **SENSES Block Party** transforms **Main Street** into a themed night of fun on the third Thursday, followed by the **Note by Note Music Night** on the fourth Thursday. Explore the entire 2019 Thursdays@Newhall lineup at **ThursdaysAtNewhall.com**.

## A MESSAGE

*from Assistant Fire Chief  
Anderson Mackey*



This past November, the Woolsey Fire burned through nearly 100,000 acres in both Los Angeles and Ventura counties, destroyed over 1,000 homes and quickly became the most destructive fire in the history of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

With this incident still fresh on our minds, we encourage all residents to begin planning now for a wildland fire incident that could affect Santa Clarita and its surrounding communities.

Our department recently released an updated version of the very successful "Ready! Set! Go!" program, which includes step-by-step planning for various ways in which residents can "harden" their homes in order to prevent ember intrusion during a brush fire, and comprehensive checklists to ensure proper preparations in the unfortunate event we call for evacuations.

Please visit **fire.lacounty.gov/rsg** to download a copy of the Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan. You can also obtain copies of this booklet by visiting your local fire station. Once you have this booklet, please sit down with your entire family to review the program and complete the action plan.



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

Sincerely,  
**Anderson Mackey**

City of  
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## SAMMY CLARITA IS BACK WITH A NEW BOOK!

Sammy's book, titled *Sammy Stories—Meet Sammy Clarita*, tells readers about himself and includes fun bits of Santa Clarita history. His book is available to check out at all Santa Clarita Public Library branches, as well as in each third grade classroom in Santa Clarita.

The fun-loving horse is celebrating the Santa Clarita Public Library. Sporting his new glasses and green vest, Sammy will be on hand to help celebrate various library programs and events, including the annual **Summer Reading** campaign. The City is excited to welcome Sammy back to encourage even the youngest residents to get involved and learn more about the City!



## THE SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

In addition to the traditional resources, such as books and computer labs, your local library branch also offers unique services like **Passport Acceptance** and engaging programs for all ages, such as bilingual story times and movie nights. The Library is also a great spot to get your research accomplished. Recently, the Library's Internet connection was upgraded and increased tenfold in speed! To learn more, visit [SantaClaritaLibrary.com](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com).



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### The State of the City Newsletter

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