



City of
SANTA CLARITA

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THE PLAN FOR A
BRIGHTER 2021

THE STATE OF THE CITY

**WINTER 2021
NEWSLETTER**



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SANTA-CLARITA.COM

LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER 2021

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."
- EDITH LOVEJOY PIERCE

AS we finally close the book on 2020 and move into a new year, there is much to look forward to in Santa Clarita in 2021. Hopefully, the restrictions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic will begin easing up as the vaccine becomes more widely available. With this positive development on the horizon, we will once again be able to gather as a community. Our residents have much to look forward to in the form of new City amenities in the new year.

The highlights will undoubtedly be the new Canyon Country Community Center and the new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station (read the specifics on page 4). These landmark City projects will bring activity, enrichment, learning opportunities, entertainment and much more – as well as a more efficient and effective home for the hardworking staff at our Sheriff's Station.

The City purchased the former Valencia Ice Station last year, and staff has been hard at work refurbishing the decades-old building to once again open it to the public for ice skating, hockey, curling and as an event space. A new name and a new look are in the works, and the City is excited to welcome the community into this revamped facility.

Plans are already in the works for a new inclusive playground on the west side of the City. Santa Clarita's first inclusive playground opened to the community a year ago at Canyon Country Park. It has become a popular play place for children of all ages and abilities, even though it was forced to be shut down for several months. The American Public Works Association even recognized the play area as a 2020 "Project of the Year." One of the reasons this project was so effective was the community collaboration that went into the planning process. The City will be reaching out to residents once again to find out what elements are important to include in the next inclusive play area.

Even though the projects have been completed, residents should finally get to enjoy the new shopping, dining and entertainment options in Old Town Newhall. Once movie theatres are able to operate again, Laemmle Theatres will welcome the community to the new location at the corner of Railroad and Lyons to enjoy art-house films and festival favorites in the two-story, seven-screen location offering 500 seats. Right next door, Newhall Crossings is already home to dozens of residents who are enjoying the spectacular views from their upper floor apartments, while retail and dining establishments are ready to welcome the public on the first floor. Meanwhile, boutiques, tasting rooms and other restaurants up and down Main Street are anticipating the time when they can invite the public back at a normal capacity.

After the challenges we all endured last year, we all deserve to have some exciting opportunities on the horizon. Stay tuned to the City's website and social media pages for the latest on the COVID-19 restrictions and grand openings of these landmark projects.



A MESSAGE
from the
City Manager
**KEN
STRIPLIN**

I know most of us are hoping for a fresh start with the new year and to leave 2020 far behind.

The vaccine for COVID-19 is already being distributed, and in the next few months, I am optimistic that we will begin to move back toward normalcy.

Our local businesses have suffered tremendously for many months now, with lingering restrictions and health orders. Our City Council has been a strong advocate for our restaurants, personal care providers and other businesses that were forced to shut down. They support the call to ensure that there is great consideration, data and information backing up these closures by the county and the state, some of which seem arbitrary and unfair. We are exploring the feasibility of creating our own health department, but such an endeavor would not happen quickly.

I look forward to a time when we can once again safely gather as a community to enjoy our favorite local events like the Cowboy Festival, Concerts in the Park, Senses and more. Until that time comes, I encourage all of you to continue to take the proper precautions to keep yourself, your loved ones and fellow community members safe. Make sure you continue to wear a mask, maintain social distancing and wash your hands regularly. We are nearing the end of this most challenging time in recent history. I hope that 2021 brings you and your family health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Ken Striplin
City Manager

kstriplin@santa-clarita.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The past year was filled with hardship and uncertainties for many of Santa Clarita's small businesses, but there were also positive moments that deserve recognition. In 2020, the City of Santa Clarita introduced the **Safer Business Commitment** to build confidence in shopping locally. The City was also able to award COVID-19 Relief Grants to 149 local businesses with the help of the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation. Other noteworthy moments include the City's partnership with Trek Bicycles on the Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita, along with the City's partnership with, and support from, Logix Federal Credit Union to provide much-needed support and items to some of our community's essential workers.





Message from the Sheriff's Captain JUSTIN DIEZ

The safety of Santa Clarita Valley streets remains a priority for the deputies and staff at the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station. Although traffic volume declined in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and residents staying at home, the Sheriff's station continues to work closely with the City of Santa Clarita to analyze collision and citation data to optimize traffic enforcement operations.

As expected, with fewer vehicles on the road, the overall collision rate in Santa Clarita has dropped significantly this year. However, deputies continue to cite drivers for unsafe actions, including speeding, failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and using cell phones. In fact, citation numbers are only slightly down from 2019 and are higher than they were in 2018.

It is important to remember that even though there has been less traffic, it does not mean that drivers have free reign to ignore the law. On the contrary, fewer people driving has meant more pedestrians and cyclists on sidewalks and crosswalks. When you get behind the wheel of your car, please be on high alert and expect pedestrians – especially families near City parks and facilities – before making turns and entering or exiting parking lots. A few added moments to check blind spots and mirrors can eliminate injuries and save lives.

In 2021, our focus remains to continue the downward trend in the collision rate that the City has seen in recent years. Please be on the lookout for new information, tips and more from the City's award-winning Heads Up Traffic Safety campaign, as we continue to strive to reduce the number of accidents seen involving pedestrians and cyclists, as well as those involving someone driving under the influence. I also encourage you to discuss safe behaviors with your family and visit santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp for more information.

Sincerely,
Captain Justin Diez

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



New Sheriff's Station Nearing Completion

Progress continues on the 7.6-acre site for the new **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station**, located on Golden Valley Road. Construction has been completed on the roofing for the 46,500 square-foot Sheriff's Station, as well as the vehicle maintenance building. Also, already complete are the communication tower and perimeter site walls. Ongoing construction will include building the interior, helipad, fueling areas and more. The new Sheriff's Station is expected to be completed and turned over to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for use in mid-2021.



Human Relations Roundtable

Last year brought with it a renewed call for social justice and racial equality here in Santa Clarita and around the world. The City worked closely with local activists and the William S. Hart Union High School District to bring together the revamped **Human Relations Roundtable**. A diverse collection of community members have been selected to be part of this important group, which will work collaboratively to encourage and assist our community in eliminating all forms of racism and discrimination and promoting inclusion, understanding and appreciation of human differences.



Canyon Country Community Center Taking Shape

The brand-new **Canyon Country Community Center**, located at the corner of Soledad Canyon Road and Sierra Highway, is right on track! As roadwork continues on streets surrounding the project site, crews are hard at work finishing the community center building and other on-site amenities. When the Canyon Country Community Center opens to the public later this year, residents will enjoy the gymnasium, demonstration kitchen, activity and classroom space, outdoor basketball court and much more! Learn more at santa-clarita.com/FutureCCCC.



Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita Now Open!

With tremendous public support, the newest recreational amenity is now open – the **Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita!** Located among the hills at the top of the George A. Carvalho Santa Clarita Sports Complex (20870 Centre Pointe Parkway), the Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita is roughly seven acres in size for BMX riders and mountain bikers to explore. The park is designed for riders of all ages and skill levels and features several single-track mountain bike trails in a range of difficulties, as well as three pump tracks and a non-sanctioned BMX track. The Bike Park is free to visit and is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Check it out today!



City of SANTA CLARITA

2020

santa-clarita.com/SC2020map



Five years ago, the City of Santa Clarita launched an extremely ambitious five year strategic plan titled Santa Clarita 2020. Under the direction of the City Council, this plan was created to guide the City's major work efforts, so as an organization the City could best prioritize resources, achieve milestones and maintain an unwavering commitment to offering the best services and facilities for Santa Clarita residents now and into the future.

The dozens of action items within the plan were synthesized into six quality of life themes.

The six quality of life themes are as follows:

1. Public Safety
2. Building and Creating Community
3. Enhancing Economic Vitality
4. Community Beautification
5. Sustaining Public Infrastructure
6. Proactive, Transparent and Responsive Government Services



Take a picture with your smartphone to learn more!

As the City of Santa Clarita puts plans in place for the next five-year strategic plan, we are taking the time to reflect on the accomplishments and achievements within Santa Clarita 2020. The City has launched a website which highlights the action items within the plan, documents achievement, showcases completion and features photos and videos of the many projects. This site is the one-stop spot to see what amenities, projects and programs have come to fruition over the last five years. Please take the time to visit the website at santa-clarita.com/SC2020map and check out the work the City has completed on behalf of you, our Santa Clarita residents.



Message from the Assistant Fire Chief ANDERSON MACKEY

Los Angeles County is lucky to have nice, sunny weather on most days, but when cooler temperatures do roll in we often see an increased interest in space heaters. Space heaters have become a popular and inexpensive way to keep warm. The Los Angeles County Fire Department would like to remind you to properly use space heaters. Each year, hundreds of fires are started as a result of improperly used space heaters.

Here are several dos and don'ts for space heater safety; we want to make sure to keep you, your family and the Santa Clarita community safe during cold winter nights.

DOs:

- Place the heater on a level, hard, non-flammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Make sure any heater is at least three feet away from any flammable materials, such as bedding, drapes and furniture.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Always turn off the heater when you leave the room.

DON'Ts:

- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep.
- Do not place a space heater anywhere near a sleeping person; they may toss and turn in the middle of the night and burn themselves.
- Do not use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for such use.
- Never use your oven as a space heater.

Following these simple tips can mean the difference between life and death. Please remember that it only takes a moment for an unattended heater to cause a fire. For additional fire safety tips and to prepare your **Ready Set Go Wildfire Action Plan**, please visit fire.lacounty.gov/rsg.

Sincerely,

Assistant Chief Anderson Mackey



Santa Clarita Public Library Update

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the **Santa Clarita Public Library** from being innovative and thoughtful in how they deliver programs and services to the public. From the Spring and Summer Reading Programs to virtual storytime, Grab and Go Craft and Activity Kits, curbside pickups, library lockers and more, library staff continued to find new ways to serve and engage our community. The increased video content due to the pandemic led the Santa Clarita Public Library to reaching over 137,000 individuals online from March through November.

Additionally, the Library proved to be an essential resource for students navigating their way through distance-learning. When visiting SantaClaritaLibrary.com, students of all ages are able to access Live Homework Help, online practice exams, eBooks, audiobooks, mental health resources and countless other tools to support successful learning. Parents who are homeschooling can also find support through the Library's Parent Teacher Resource Center Collection, which offers curriculum guidance, a Common Core Standards handbook and more.

Looking further into 2021, the Santa Clarita Public Library team continues to prepare exciting and enriching initiatives and programs for all ages. Residents can look forward to the **2021 One Story One City** programming, another exciting Summer Reading Program and much more throughout the year.

Addressing Homelessness

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the homeless population has been identified as high-risk. The City stepped up to ensure that our local community members experiencing homelessness had the necessary space for social distancing by allowing Bridge to Home, Santa Clarita's primary homeless services provider, to temporarily relocate to the City's Newhall Community Center. Meanwhile, this year will also bring two enhanced shelter locations to Santa Clarita. Work will begin on Bridge to Home's permanent location on Drayton Street in Newhall, on land donated by the City. Another local homeless services provider, Family Promise of SCV, will begin construction on affordable housing and case management office on property also formally owned by the City. This property transfer, as well as the initial donation of land to Bridge to Home, puts the amount of land the City has contributed at nearly \$3 million. Meanwhile, the Community Task Force to Address Homelessness continues to make great strides in providing crucial resources and services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. The Task Force is comprised of 30 key stakeholders. Due to the pandemic, one of the main data sources for homeless outreach will not be possible this year. The 2021 Homeless Count has been canceled and the 2020 data results will hold for this year and continue to drive and support local homeless initiatives. For more information, please visit SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org.



2020 ONLINE RESOURCES



COVID-19 Resources for Residents and Businesses

Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Santa Clarita has worked to keep residents informed of evolving public health orders and resources available to help families and businesses alike. By visiting the City's Emergency website – SantaClaritaEmergency.com – residents are able to view recent addresses from the Mayor, see how new health orders from the State of California and County of Los Angeles affect daily life in Santa Clarita and find links to resources such as business grants, unemployment benefits, school district updates and more.



Virtual Recreation Center Now Open

Launched in 2020, the **Virtual Rec Center** offers residents of all ages online programming and recreational opportunities they can enjoy at home. From family-friendly crafts to exercises and athletic skill-building activities for youth, the Virtual Rec Center has something for everyone! New content is being added regularly, so be sure to check often for the latest programs and updates. Visit santa-clarita.com/VirtualRecCenter today to get started.



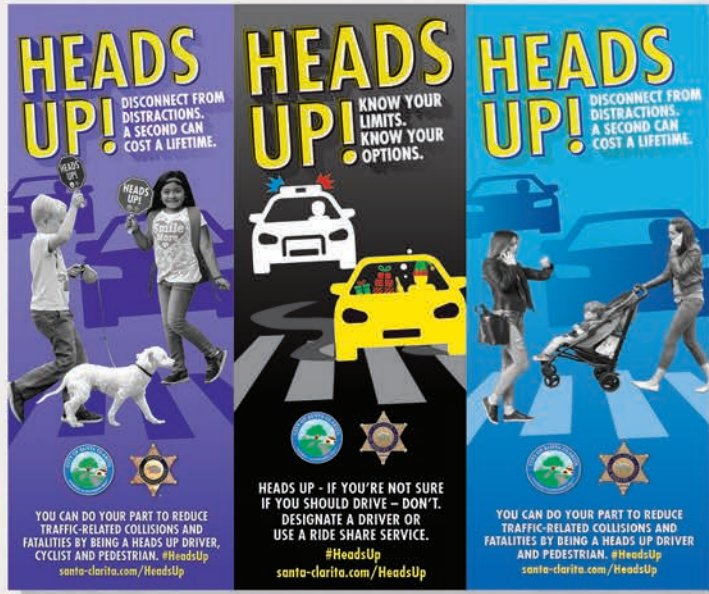
Take Part in Virtual Events from Anywhere

When many of the City's events were adjusted or canceled in 2020, the Arts and Events team worked to deliver entertainment through a variety of fun and engaging events online. The new **City of Santa Clarita Events page on Facebook** houses information on upcoming virtual events, including Trivia Nights, virtual escape rooms, movie watch parties and more, with new events being added regularly. **Connect with the City on Facebook** to stay updated on these free opportunities and get your family together for a night of fun, laughs and lasting memories! [@CityOfSantaClaritaEvents](https://www.facebook.com/CityOfSantaClaritaEvents)

Access City Services Online

While City Hall remains open to the public, 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 recently debuted, allowing businesses to access forms for COVID-19-related permits quickly.





Heads Up DUI Campaign

Heads Up! Know Your Limits, Know Your Options

Although the traffic collision rate in the City of Santa Clarita dropped by 30 percent in 2020 and is down 52 percent since 2016, collisions involving those driving under the influence continue to be an issue. To eliminate instances of DUI in Santa Clarita completely, the City's Traffic Safety team, in partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, reminds residents that it is never a good idea to get behind the wheel when under the influence. Know your limits and plan an alternate travel option to keep Santa Clarita roads safe for all. Look for more information on the City's award-winning Heads Up! traffic safety campaign at santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp.



Hometown Heroes Banner Program

The City's Hometown Heroes Banner Program honors actively serving military members in the United States Armed Forces from the Santa Clarita Valley. The program has been revamped and the price decreased to \$172.50 for the first year and just \$40 each year after. Streetlight pole banners customized with the honorees' photo, name and titles are displayed throughout City streets three times a year: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day. Residents interested in purchasing a banner, either to hang in the City or appear online as a digital banner, can do so anytime at santa-clarita.com/Heroes.



DFY in SCV

DFYinSCV (Drug Free Youth in Santa Clarita Valley) has been hard at work continuing their anti-drug club for junior high and high school students by transitioning events fully online. Students can participate in virtual events like, the Junior High Virtual Fall Summit which was hosted on November 18, 2020. This virtual event included a guest speaker, trivia games and friendly debates to keep students engaged! Along with online resources for students, parents are encouraged to participate in virtual workshops held every fourth Wednesday of the month, with varying topics every session. earn more at DFYinSCV.com.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with The City of Santa Clarita
santa-clarita.com/social



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