

ALWAYS THERE FOR US!!  
BLESS YOU ALL!

We are in this together!

hearts  
for  
heroes!



# the City of Santa Clarita STATE OF THE CITY

STAY SAFE!

HAVE A  
GREAT  
REST OF  
YOUR  
DAY!

Summer 2020

MAYOR CAMERON SMYTH  
MAYOR PRO TEM BILL MIRANDA  
COUNCILMEMBERS  
BOB KELLAR  
MARSHA MCLEAN  
LAURENE WESTE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Best City I've  
ever lived in!



Stay  
strong!



THIS CITY IS RESILIENT!

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS! YOU  
ARE HEROES ALL YEAR ROUND!



## A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER *Ken Striplin*

Normally, this State of the City newsletter is full of City achievements, projects and updates, and you will see some of that within these pages. However, in addition to these regular features, this Summer 2020 City of Santa Clarita State of the City newsletter will also highlight the unprecedented time we've all experienced over the last few months.

The coronavirus pandemic has completely transformed our lives. It quickly went from a virus a half a world away that we heard about on monthly conference calls, to a global pandemic that closed our schools and businesses, claimed lives and inundated news feeds with daily worldwide updates from experts at press conferences.

Even through all the uncertainty, I am proud to see our community's resilience shine through and innovation take hold. Our residents have looked out for each other - checking in on neighbors, providing food and supplies to those in need and donating masks and meals to our essential workers.

I am proud of our City staff who have found creative ways to offer programming like virtual storytimes, art galleries and even performances. I am also grateful to our staff who went beyond their normal scope of work to spread kindness. Our Community Center staff called all of the elderly participants in their programs to check in on them and see if they needed anything (they said they need to play BINGO again!). Our volunteer coordinators hand-wrote graduation cards to all of their dedicated volunteers who were also Class of 2020 graduates, we delivered meals to our first responders, launched the Hearts for Heroes campaign and even offered up our Community Center as a temporary homeless shelter. These small acts of kindness bring moments of joy when they are needed most and demonstrate that the state of our City is strong.

Sincerely,  
Ken Striplin  
City Manager  
kstriplin@santa-clarita.com

# COVID-19 AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME

On March 13, 2020, the Santa Clarita City Council declared a Local Emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), following the National Emergency declaration by President Donald Trump and the confirmation of the first coronavirus case in the Santa Clarita Valley. On March 19, 2020, Los Angeles County issued a "Safer at Home" order, closing down malls, playgrounds and all non-essential businesses.

Concern over the spread of the virus, the uncertainty of time at home and the closures of businesses has had devastating impacts on people here in Santa Clarita, across the country and around the globe - physically, emotionally and financially. Daily routines have been disrupted, schools have moved to distance learning and we've all grappled with the effects the coronavirus pandemic has had on our lives. Residents have had to decipher a slew of health orders coming from the county and state and try to figure out where they can go, what is open and where masks are required.

Through it all, you, the residents of Santa Clarita, have once again shown your resolve and have united in support of your neighbors. From the first days of the Safer at Home orders, residents have frequented local, family-owned restaurants for delivery or take-out service to help keep them going. As more businesses have been able to open, shoppers have utilized curbside service to support others in our community. Strangers have rallied to ensure elderly neighbors have needed resources and supplies. Our frontline workers and healthcare professionals have been rightly hailed as heroes in Santa Clarita.

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few months and as we move forward together. Your strength, determination and support for one another has exemplified the Santa Clarita spirit that makes our City the wonderful place it is today.

*Karina Cervantes  
- LASD*



*Aric Duran,  
- Firefighter,  
All Cal FD  
Station 125*



*Javier Parra  
- Produce Clerk,  
Albertsons*



*William Rios  
- Electrical Crew  
Foreman*



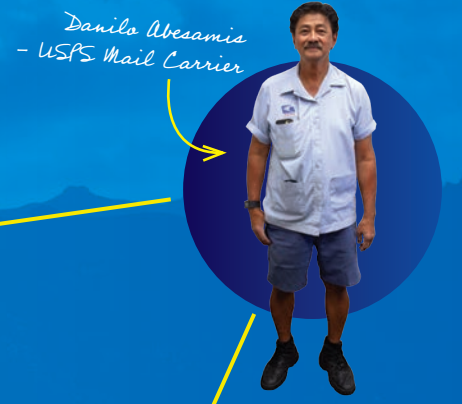
*Winnie Winslow  
- Commuter Driver,  
Transit Maintenance Facility*



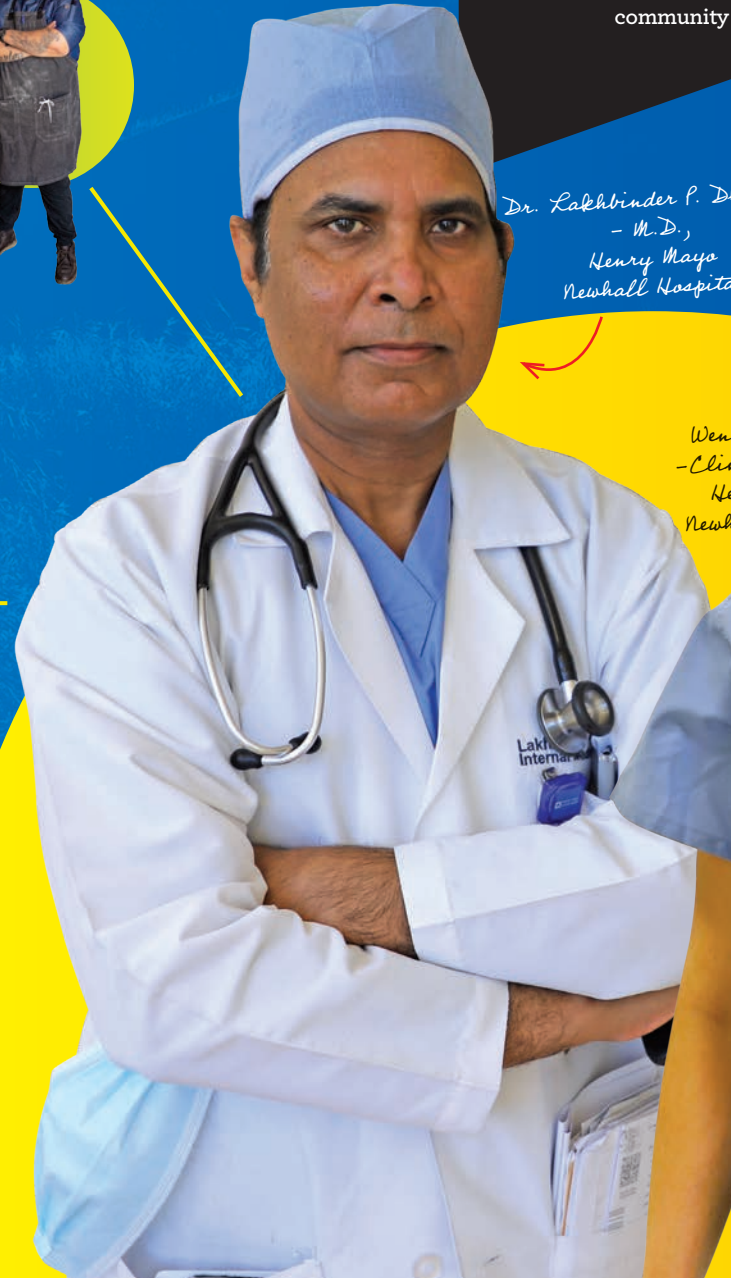
*Luis Rodela,  
- Executive Chef*



*Rikki Salcido,  
- Office Manager,  
Albertsons*



*Danilo Abesamia  
- USPS Mail Carrier*



*Dr. Rakhbinder P. Dhanda  
- M.D.,  
Henry Mayo  
Newhall Hospital*



*Wendy Neilson,  
- Clinical RN, SL,  
Henry Mayo  
Newhall Hospital*

## THANK YOU, ESSENTIAL WORKERS!

Doctors, nurses, hospital staff and first responders have been on the front line of the coronavirus pandemic, putting themselves in harm's way to care for those sickened by the coronavirus. In addition to treating coronavirus patients, these individuals have continued to provide the highest quality care in the safest way possible in emergency rooms, maternity wards and senior living facilities in Santa Clarita.

Additionally, the work being done in other sectors of the local economy has not gone unnoticed. Grocery store clerks and restaurant staff have kept residents fed. Bus drivers have helped transport employees to their jobs and volunteers and neighbors have done all they can to ensure those most at risk of complications from the coronavirus have the supplies and resources they need. The City of Santa Clarita thanks each and every resident for their unwavering support of the community during this pandemic.

# SANTA CLARITA 2020 PROJECT UPDATES

THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC AND THE RAINY MONTHS, WORK HAS CONTINUED AT THE SITES OF TWO OF THE LANDMARK PROJECTS WITHIN THE SANTA CLARITA 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN.



## NEW CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER

Construction of the highly anticipated Canyon Country Community Center is well underway. Last year, Phase I of construction was completed, which included rough grading, preparing the building pads, improvements to the Mint Canyon Channel and installing a water infiltration system.

Phase II got underway in February, which includes the actual buildings and on-site improvements. Work is currently underway on the 25,000 square foot Community Center building that will consist of a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, dance room, activity rooms and classrooms and a demonstration teaching kitchen. The structural steel framing has been erected, which presents a visual of the scale of the Community Center building. Site improvements include plazas and courtyards, walkways, parking, open turf area, an event stage, outdoor half-court basketball, play area, several pieces of public art and landscaping.

This summer, Phase III of construction will begin and includes off-site road improvements on Soledad Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, Dolan Way and Solamint Road. These improvements will enhance vehicular and pedestrian movement around the new Community Center site. The off-site road improvements will be completed well in advance of the grand opening, which is on track for fall of 2021.



## NEW SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SHERIFF'S STATION

The hard-working men and women at our Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station are eagerly looking forward to making the move to the brand-new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station. If you have driven by the 7.6-acre site on Golden Valley Road between Centre Pointe Parkway and Robert C. Lee Parkway, you will see that the main station building has taken shape. This project is a joint effort between the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles. Once complete, the new, centrally located, 46,552 square foot Sheriff's Station will include a jail, a 4,165 square foot vehicle maintenance building, communications tower and a helipad.

Construction was suspended during the rainy season but is back in full swing now. In previous phases, the rough site grading, off-site improvements on Golden Valley Road and utilities to the site, including a new storm drain and water line, were completed. The current phase of development is on-site construction, which includes roofing, interior wall framing and installation of utilities in the main station building, helipad construction, installation of irrigation and landscaping, the generator enclosure, maintenance building roofing, carport structures for oversized vehicles and trailers, the fueling station for Sheriff's vehicles, the vehicle wash station and fine grading of the site.

The new station is scheduled to be turned over to the Sheriff's Department in the first half of 2021.



**A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN Justin Diez**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges for law enforcement across the country. As essential workers, the professional and sworn staff at Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station will continue working 24/7 to serve the entire valley. We remain dedicated and passionate about reducing crime and serving our community.

Despite the current environment, deputies have not slowed down efforts to curb illegal activity in the Santa Clarita Valley. Target-specific crime suppression operations are regularly conducted by patrol, special teams and Detective Bureau personnel. We continue focusing on specific crime trends, such as vehicle theft, vehicle break-ins and illegal narcotics activity.

The safety of our roads is also a high priority during the pandemic. With less commuters and wide open roads, there has been a marked increase in motorists driving at unsafe speeds. Our traffic office has increased enforcement in areas identified by our deputies, as well as areas that residents have brought to our attention.

We remind our residents to stay vigilant in completing the #9PMRoutine every night by removing valuables from your cars, locking your doors and turning on your lights. The combined efforts of crime suppression operations, proactive patrol and our partnership with the community has proved to be very successful in combatting crime and keeping our community safe.

Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station is here to serve you. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Captain Justin Diez

Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station



## OLD TOWN NEWHALL UPDATES

Progress continues to be made on the Newhall Crossings development and the finishing touches are being put on the new Laemmle Theatre in Old Town Newhall. The mixed-use development, Newhall Crossings, is nearly complete, providing residential units on upper floors with retail and dining space on the ground floor. Learn more about the new building and available apartment units at [NewhallCrossings.com](http://NewhallCrossings.com). Once the Laemmle Theatre is complete, it will add seven movie screens for residents and visitors to enjoy limited release arthouse and foreign films. An official grand opening celebration is expected before the end of the year. The City looks forward to both new projects supporting our local economy and enhancing the quality of life for Santa Clarita residents.



# WHAT'S GOING ON... in Santa Clarita



## WORK OUT WITH THE ONLINE REC CENTER

Are you looking for a fun way to stay active that can be done in your own home or backyard? The City's Recreation and Community Services Department has you covered! Learn new skills from coaches, participate in workout sessions and complete easy-to-do challenges with your family without needing to leave the neighborhood. To get started, please visit [santa-clarita.com/VirtualRecCenter](http://santa-clarita.com/VirtualRecCenter) or connect with the City of Santa Clarita on Facebook.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic safety is a top priority in the City of Santa Clarita. The City of Santa Clarita's Traffic Safety Team began a partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station in 2016 on a comprehensive plan to reduce traffic collisions and prevent fatalities using Engineering, Enforcement and Education.

Since implementation of the Traffic Safety Team in 2016, the City has seen a 28.4% decrease in the collision rate, and since the Heads Up Traffic Safety Campaign was introduced in 2017, collisions in Santa Clarita are down 19% overall. In fact, the City's collision rate (collisions per 100,000 population) fell to 614 last year, the lowest rate on record. At the end of 2019, total collisions across the City were down nearly 6% compared to the year before. Tied closely to the collision rate, Sheriff's deputies have been hard at work recording their highest citations numbers in 2019, a 58% increase since 2016. The City has also seen a 24% decrease in the injury rate since 2016.

In 2020, the Traffic Safety Team is renewing its focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety and is also continuing a campaign to reduce instances of DUIs in Santa Clarita.

The City also reminds residents to exercise caution when driving through Santa Clarita. As more cars return to the roads following the Safer at Home orders, please remember to obey posted speed limits, check blind spots before merging or turning and anticipate pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections. To learn more about traffic safety in Santa Clarita, please visit [santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp](http://santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp).



## CITY HALL CEREMONIES RESUME

The City of Santa Clarita has resumed marriage services at City Hall! Engaged couples may purchase a confidential marriage license and also take advantage of modified virtual civil ceremony services, conducted via Zoom. Prior to scheduling a marriage license or ceremony appointment, it is important to note that patrons may experience delays in obtaining services due to backlogs caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The City thanks everyone for their patience at this time!

Additionally, before booking an appointment online, one or both individuals in the couple must meet the following criteria:

- The marriage license must be one that has been issued in the State of California
- Both individuals must be in the same place in the State of California
- Both individuals must have valid government identification
- Must have a device with video/audio capabilities (desktop, laptop, tablet or phone)
- Must have an Internet connection

To learn more and to schedule a ceremony or license appointment, please visit [santa-clarita.com/Weddings](http://santa-clarita.com/Weddings).



## ONLINE ART EVENTS AT THE MAIN

The shows must, and will, go on at The MAIN! The MAIN's building may be closed, but that hasn't stopped them from bringing a full lineup of virtual events like 10 by 10 Variety Night, 'You're The Best!' Talent Show, SOS Theatre Festival, New Heights Artists Workshops and others to our community. View upcoming events and tune-in at [Facebook.com/TheMAINNewhall](http://Facebook.com/TheMAINNewhall). Learn more about The MAIN's virtual events and operational updates at [AtTheMain.org](http://AtTheMain.org).



## CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

The Santa Clarita Public Library continues to provide an extensive list of eResources, virtual events, modified services and programming for all ages despite restrictions put in place as a result of the coronavirus. For one, the library has installed locker systems for picking up item holds at both the Valencia Library and Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library branches. The library team has also brought many of their popular events like Storytime, Game Night, Baby Bounce & Sing and others online to [Facebook.com/SCVPublicLibrary](http://Facebook.com/SCVPublicLibrary) for all to enjoy. It is also important to note that the eLibrary continues to be an excellent way for residents to enjoy a multitude of library offerings without having to enter a library branch physically.

Browse the eLibrary catalog at [SantaClaritaLibrary.com/eLibrary](http://SantaClaritaLibrary.com/eLibrary). For updates and more information on library operations, please email [libraryinfo@santa-clarita.com](mailto:libraryinfo@santa-clarita.com).

## ARTS ONLINE

The City's Arts and Events division is delivering unique and creative art exhibitions for our community to enjoy, virtually! Take an online stroll through virtual galleries like Art in Isolation, the 2020 Youth Arts Showcase, Gathering and so much more from the comfort of your home. Residents are also encouraged to view Santa Clarita's countless public art pieces online and in-person as well. The Arts and Events division is always finding fun and new ways to deliver inspiring art to our community. Learn more about current exhibitions, calls for entries and more at [SantaClaritaArts.com](http://SantaClaritaArts.com).

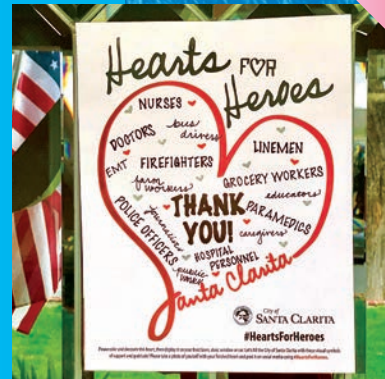


## HEARTS FOR HEROES

The City of Santa Clarita launched the #HeartsForHeroes campaign as a way to support and show our appreciation for frontline and essential workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

#HeartsForHeroes allows Santa Clarita residents to design a heart, display it and post their message of gratitude on social media, which we have shared with essential workers and City social media accounts. The City also worked with friends at Via Promotions to develop #HeartsForHeroes T-shirts, where a portion of the proceeds go to the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation. Additionally, the City of Santa Clarita hosted and partnered with local businesses for a series of socially-distanced events and lunches to present supplies, food and messages of gratitude to the heroes of our community.

The support and participation of our community has been outstanding to date and the City is grateful that we all could come together while staying apart! As we find our way back to normal, we will continue to acknowledge the great efforts of medical professionals, deputies, firefighters, grocery store employees, mail carriers, trash collectors, bus drivers, local media and all of the other essential workers who support our community during this pandemic. Learn more and get involved at [santa-clarita.com/HeartsForHeroes](http://santa-clarita.com/HeartsForHeroes).



## A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF Anderson Mackey

There is no denying that the presence of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County, and throughout the world, has changed our lives drastically; we have all had to adapt to a new normal, and that includes the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Although we continue to provide all of our emergency services at standards the community has come to expect, we have made some changes to our normal protocols. These changes begin the moment you call 9-1-1 to report a medical emergency. Dispatchers will ask a series of additional screening questions in order to ensure that our firefighters respond in the safest possible manner, for both you and them. Firefighters now don additional personal protective equipment when dealing with patients in the field, and the number of firefighters with direct contact to a patient, in the initial phase of a response, has been reduced to just one.

We have also recently launched a new Telemedicine Program, which allows firefighters and paramedics to assist mildly ill patients by having an advanced provider (nurse practitioner or nurse) evaluate patients via video - with the option to use three-way video with an emergency physician, as needed - preventing unneeded trips to the emergency room.

During these times, when most people are staying home, we have seen a reduction in the number of calls for service. However, we have also seen a dramatic increase in the number of structure fire responses. Given this, we would like to encourage residents to visit [fire.lacounty.gov/f-i-r-e](http://fire.lacounty.gov/f-i-r-e) to download both an instructional guide and a coloring book for kids as part of our newest public education program, Family Instructions for Rapid Escape (F.I.R.E.).

In closing, we remind you that we are entering the height of the brush fire season; we are hopeful that everyone has prepared themselves, and their home, by utilizing our Ready Set Go Wildfire Action Plan. If you have not yet done so, please visit [fire.lacounty.gov/rsg](http://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg).

Sincerely,  
Assistant Fire Chief Anderson Mackey  
Los Angeles County Fire Department

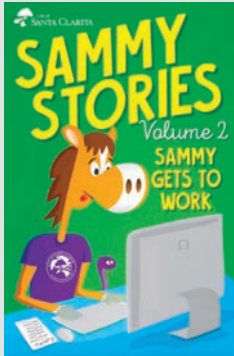
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### SAMMY CLARITA GETS TO WORK

Santa Clarita's furry mascot Sammy Clarita returns in "Sammy Clarita Volume 2, Sammy Gets to Work." Join Sammy in his second adventure as he searches for his dream job and makes friends along the way in the Santa Clarita Valley. Whether it's engineering a new library, joining the graffiti removal team or trying to be a groundskeeper at Central Park, Sammy ends up finding his ultimate job in the most surprising place. Now you can enjoy storytime with Sammy Clarita in English and Spanish by downloading the book at [sammyclarita.com](http://sammyclarita.com) or visiting any of the three Santa Clarita Public Library branches. Families can also watch the stories come to life by watching the Sammy Clarita Stories series at [sammyclarita.com](http://sammyclarita.com) or the [City of Santa Clarita YouTube channel](http://City of Santa Clarita YouTube channel).

### COMPLETE CITY SERVICES ONLINE

Did you know that many of the City of Santa Clarita services you need can be completed online? The City's Resident Service Center is available by visiting [santa-clarita.com/RSC](http://santa-clarita.com/RSC) or using the City of Santa Clarita mobile app and is a quick and convenient way to report graffiti, request a trash cart, inquire about street repairs and more. Homeowners and contractors can also use the online permit center to complete permit applications and more at [santa-clarita.com/eService](http://santa-clarita.com/eService).



### RECYCLE HERO

Being safer at home creates new challenges for our Recycle Heroes; however, there are ways to reduce waste and recycle at home, which protect and preserve our environment. The City needs Recycle Heroes now more than ever, and it's up to each of us to set a positive example for our families and friends to follow. It's as easy as recycling an aluminum can from your lunch and recycling other everyday items like glass and plastic bottles and jars or cardboard. Of course, part of recycling is knowing which items are regular trash and do not belong in the recycle bin. Items like plastic bags, garden hoses, electrical cords and batteries do not belong in the recycle bin. Being a Santa Clarita Recycle Hero is an opportunity to teach younger generations the importance of environmental awareness and stewardship. Be a part of protecting your City one Recycle Hero at a time, and don't forget to show us how you recycle right on social media using the hashtag [#RecycleHeroSC](https://twitter.com/RecycleHeroSC)! Visit [GreenSantaClarita.com](http://GreenSantaClarita.com) for more information and become a Recycle Hero today!

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with the City of Santa Clarita!  
[santa-clarita.com/Social](http://santa-clarita.com/Social)



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