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★ ★ ALL-STAR CITY ★ ★



City of
SANTA CLARITA

- MAYOR BILL MIRANDA
- MAYOR PRO TEM LAURENE WESTE

- COUNCILMEMBER JASON GIBBS
- COUNCILWOMAN MARSHA MCLEAN
- COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SMYTH



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

**STATE OF
THE CITY**

SANTA-CLARITA.COM





City of
SANTA CLARITA

★ ★ ★ **CELEBRATING OUR** ★ ★ ★

★ **ALL-STAR CITY** ★



What makes an All-Star City? For Santa Clarita, it is a passion for innovation, innate resilience, a strong sense of community and a deep-rooted value placed on achieving excellence. These factors all add up to a City with a high quality of life that offers residents a place they are proud to call home.

Some of the accolades bestowed upon the City of Santa Clarita in the past year include the **Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award**, **Project of the Year Award** from the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association for the Canyon County Inclusive Play Area, **National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government Rising to Excellence Award** winner, designated a **Tree City USA** for the 31st year and ranked in the **top seven percent of fiscally healthy cities**, just to name a few. In addition, the City of Santa Clarita has the **distinct honor of winning the most Helen Putnam Awards of Excellence from the League of California Cities**. This year also saw **City Manager Ken Striplin honored with the prestigious 2021 Award for Career Excellence by the International City/County Management Association**.

Santa Clarita continues to top the lists of national rankings for a variety of quality-of-life themes. This year our City was named the **4th Most Ambitious City in America by Verizon**, was ranked in the **Top 10 Safest Cities in the Nation by three national organizations** and was recognized as one of the **Happiest and Healthiest Cities in the Nation by WalletHub**.

Throughout 2021, the City of Santa Clarita has continued to make new amenities available to the community while supporting those hit hardest by the pandemic. The **Shop Local/Eat Local** campaign encouraged residents to support our local businesses, while the **Rental Assistance Program** distributed millions of dollars to those behind on rent due to COVID-19. This year also saw the reopening and rebranding of the **The Cube – Ice and Entertainment Center**, which is owned by the City and operated by ASEC and the LA Kings. **Old Town Newhall** welcomed dozens of new businesses, including the new **Laemmle Theatre**, bringing art-house and film festival winners alongside current blockbuster movies. We encouraged residents to get outdoors with new hiking trails and trailheads, providing residents additional ways to explore our thousands of acres of pristine open space.

The **Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita** continues to evolve with new amenities allowing riders to challenge themselves, and we welcomed the 35th park to our City this year.





A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER **KEN STRIPLIN**

After the struggles of the last year and a half, it is time to truly celebrate the joy of the holiday season here in Santa Clarita. Please join the City for the official kick-off to the season in Old Town Newhall. Light up Main Street is back the evening of November 20, and better than ever with sparkling decorations, holiday shopping, festive activities and more.

I want to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping locally this year. Our businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic and need our support. In addition, spending money in Santa Clarita means that money stays right here in our City, supporting local employees and businesses - and getting reinvested into our community. There are a wide range of specialty stores located throughout the City, where you are sure to find the perfect, unique gift for that special someone on your holiday shopping list. For more information, please visit VisitSantaClarita.com.

Another place that will get you into the holiday spirit is The Cube - Ice and Entertainment Center. You can lace up your skates and take a spin with your family, come for the tree lighting and other holiday events, plus - check out the soon-to-be-opened enhanced beverage facility and restaurant! For more information and to find out about figure skating, hockey and other ice activities, please visit TheCubeSantaClarita.com.

There is much to enjoy this holiday season here in Santa Clarita. I wish you and yours a very joyous and healthy holiday.

Sincerely,

Ken Striplin
City Manager

kstriplin@santa-clarita.com

In addition to the regular updating and enhancing of City infrastructure through our road maintenance and sidewalk repair projects, Santa Clarita is also always looking for ways to provide ease of service to our residents. Did you know you can **get your passport** at any Santa Clarita Public Library branch and that you can **get married at City Hall**? These convenient services returned in 2021 after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic. We are wrapping up this All-Star year with the grand openings of two landmark City facilities - the new Canyon Country Community Center and Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station (read more on page 4). These new City amenities will bring enhanced enrichment, activities and safety to our residents.

We can't talk about all of these winning moments without mentioning the Olympic medal-winning athletes that are proud to call Santa Clarita home. In fact, if Santa Clarita competed as its own country at the Tokyo Olympics...the City would have tied for 47th in total medals out of more than 200 nations!

The future is looking bright, and thanks to preparation, innovation and dedication - our City's winning streak has no end in sight!

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SC2025 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The City of Santa Clarita's SC2025 strategic plan is well underway, with exciting developments that will benefit the community. Over the next five years, residents can expect to see the completion of the Central Park Buildout Project, which will include four new sports fields, additional parking and an upgraded dog park. In addition, the City is finishing up the Vista Canyon Metrolink Station, expanding our open space, securing new filming opportunities and continuing the facilitation of the Traffic Safety Team to maintain a record-low collision rate. To learn more about the 2025 Strategic Plan, please visit santa-clarita.com/SC2025.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES



Canyon Country Community Center Now Open!

After three years, construction is complete and the brand-new Canyon Country Community Center is now open to the public! The Canyon Country Community Center, which is located on the northeast corner of Soledad Canyon Road and Sierra Highway, is a destination for residents throughout the City to enjoy cultural programming, community events, recreational opportunities and much more. In addition to a number of public art pieces, the Community Center also features a large outdoor event space, playground with sensory elements, a full gymnasium, space for fitness classes and after-school programming and a demonstration teaching kitchen. Visit the Canyon Country Community Center to discover all it has to offer today! santa-clarita.com/CCCC



The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station is Complete!

The brand-new, state-of-the-art Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, located on Golden Valley Road between Robert C. Lee Parkway and Centre Pointe Parkway, is now complete and will soon be fully operational. The 46,000-square-foot station provides the Sheriff's Department with the space and resources it needs to deliver the high level of service Santa Clarita Valley residents expect. The new station includes a detached vehicle maintenance facility, a heliport, a 9-1-1 dispatch center, a detention center and space for the Department's local Emergency Operations Center. This project was a joint effort with Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger and is a piece of critical infrastructure that will positively impact Santa Clarita for decades to come.





What's New At The Cube?

The Cube – Ice and Entertainment Center – is the City of Santa Clarita's coolest place to be! Whether you are signed up for Skate Camp, participate in the adult hockey league or skate with your friends during Public Session, The Cube is the perfect place to unwind and hone your skating skills. Follow The Cube on social media to stay up to date on news and to learn about upcoming events and opportunities, such as the festive "Polar Express" Christmas showcase! Plus, we are gearing up for a gold-medal-winning celebration as The Cube is the local home for everything Winter Olympics and will play host to special events and activities over the course of Beijing 2022 in February. TheCubeSantaClarita.com

A New Inclusive Play Area On Its Way

Since its grand opening in January 2020, the Inclusive Play Area at Canyon Country Park has become one of the most popular playgrounds for Santa Clarita families due to the inclusive and sensory elements that encourage children of all ages, sizes and abilities to play and learn together. The creation of the Inclusive Play Area was a community effort, bringing together kids, parents, service providers and other stakeholders to ensure the needs of all users were met. Plans are currently underway to bring an additional Inclusive Play Area to Santa Clarita – at West Creek Park – to better serve families on the westside of the City. Follow the City on social media for project updates along the way!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

Despite the challenges of the last 18 months, I am proud of the resolve and dedication demonstrated by the men and women of Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station. They have continued to honorably serve our SCV community through the COVID-19 pandemic, Department budget cuts and new criminal justice policies and directives, which have had a significant impact on our day to day jobs.

We have seen a major spike in the number of repeat offenders, some who have been arrested more than 20 times in the last year and a half. These repeat offenders account for nearly 40 percent of our total arrests. New criminal justice policies and directives have enabled criminals to repeatedly break the law and perpetuate crime throughout our neighborhoods.

Even with these obstacles, I am proud to say, that Santa Clarita remains one of the safest cities in the nation. In the first half of 2021, burglaries in Santa Clarita were down almost 40 percent compared to the same time period in 2020. Additionally, there are fewer collisions and injuries on our streets, with total collisions down 17 percent and collisions resulting in injury down 15 percent.

The team at the Santa Clarita Valley Station is also looking forward to moving into our new facility on Golden Valley Road. The current facility on Magic Mountain Parkway was built nearly five decades ago and since then, the population of our valley has grown exponentially. As our station staffing needs also grew, we were forced to lease additional space, as well as set up modular buildings in our parking lot.

Now, we are beginning to make the move to the brand-new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, which will offer the space and resources for our Station staff to best serve the needs of the community now, and well into the future.

Sincerely,

Captain Justin Diez

FALL/WINTER EVENTS



Veterans Day

The City of Santa Clarita invites you to attend the City's annual Veterans Day Ceremony to honor Santa Clarita veterans and currently-serving military members for their service to our country. The Veterans Day Ceremony is hosted in partnership with local veterans organizations and will be held Thursday, November 11, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall (24275 North Walnut Street). This special event will feature musical performances, guest speakers and the ceremonial changing of the flags. santa-clarita.com/Events



Light Up Main Street

Join us for the City's official kickoff to the holiday season at Light Up Main Street in Old Town Newhall! Main Street will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland, and you are invited to enjoy the festivities on Saturday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. Listen to holiday music and dance the night away near the stage in front of the Old Town Newhall Library, take a picture with Santa and much more. Light Up Main Street begins at 6:00 p.m., and the thousands of lights and 23-foot Christmas tree will be illuminated at 6:30 p.m. OldTownNewhall.com

Santa Clarita Marathon

The 25th running of the Santa Clarita Marathon, presented by Parkway Motorcars, will take place on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Welcome back the Santa Clarita Marathon by running through the beautiful off-street trails toward the finish line at the Westfield Valencia Town Center. In addition to a marathon, the event will also feature a half marathon, 10K and 5K run and the Mayor's Walk. Learn more and sign up to volunteer! SCMarathon.org

Newhallywood Film Festival

Take a step back in time to Santa Clarita's Silent Era and rediscover some of the films that are the foundation of the movie industry. The Newhallywood Film Festival showcases many of the dialogue-free films shot in and around Newhall from 1895 to 1930, and also includes sessions on film history, local film locations and much more. You won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind look at some of the most iconic films ever made! The Newhallywood Film Festival will take place in February 2022, and a full schedule will be posted leading up to the event. SantaClaritaArts.com





Santa Clarita Olympians Shine in Tokyo

This Summer, six Santa Clarita natives competed in the Olympic and Paralympic Games at Tokyo 2020. **Allyson Felix** completed her fifth trip to the Olympics by bringing home two more medals, making her the most decorated United States track athlete in Olympic history. By winning bronze in the 400m and gold in the 4x400m Relay, Felix now has 11 Olympic medals in her career, including seven gold, three silver and one bronze.

In her second Olympics, swimmer **Abbey Weitzel** won a pair of medals for Team USA. Weitzel returned to Santa Clarita with a bronze medal from the 4x100m Freestyle Relay and a silver medal from the 4x100m Medley Relay. Paralympic archer **Kevin Mather** excelled in his first trip to the Paralympics, winning gold in the Men's Individual Recurve Open. Mather defeated both the #1 and #2 seeds in the tournament to claim the top prize.

Kyle Ensing and **David Smith** represented Team USA in Volleyball, helping the country to hard-fought victories over France and Tunisia. **Brittany Cervantes** represented Team Mexico in Softball, leading the team offensively and securing the country's first Olympic victory in the sport.

Stay connected with the City on social media for details on how you can celebrate Santa Clarita's Summer Olympians and kick-off the start of the Beijing Winter Olympics with a community event at The Cube in early February 2022.

Homelessness Update

The City of Santa Clarita continues to partner with our local non-profits to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness. This fall, Family Promise broke ground on a new transitional and affordable housing project on land transferred from the City at no cost. In addition, Bridge to Home is wrapping up its Capital Campaign to build a permanent shelter on land also donated by the City. Returning in 2022 is the annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Preparations are underway, and the count will take place in January. As a part of the upcoming Homeless Count, the Los Angeles Homeless Authority (LAHSA) is debuting a mobile app for the point-in-time count rather than the traditional clipboard tally sheets. This will allow the count to be much more accurate and efficient. For more information, please visit lahsa.org/homeless-count.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASST. FIRE CHIEF ANDERSON MACKEY

While we continue to return to normalcy slowly and, in some cases, what will inevitably be a new normal for many, the Los Angeles County Fire Department has never wavered in its commitment to provide emergency services at standards that the community has come to expect. Equally as important, our Department is pleased that we have recently been able to re-engage with the community through participation in a variety of community events.

We are also proud to announce the launch of our newest public education program, Sirens of Silence. The Sirens of Silence program was created by our Department in collaboration with and vetted by parents, advocates, clinicians/therapists, educators and physicians who work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to bring awareness and foster inclusivity to this growing population with special needs.

The program consists of three components: 1) education and awareness for the Department's first responders through a mandatory training module as well as access to visual aids and informational materials with advice and practical tips on how to approach, respond and communicate; 2) safety-related items (e.g., seatbelt covers, sensory toys, etc.) for special needs patients; and 3) special needs-friendly events for residents to meet and interact with first responders in a welcoming and sensory-sensitive space. Children with ASD and their parents can become more familiar with first responders and their equipment, thereby increasing their comfort levels.

In closing, we remind you that we are still in the midst 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.

Sincerely,

Assistant Fire Chief Anderson Mackey

CHECK OUT OUR SCV ATHLETE HALL OF FAME!



1) For a very cool augmented reality experience celebrating star athletes from Santa Clarita, please open your camera, scan the above code and download the Adobe Aero app. Don't worry, it's FREE and easy to use!



2) Once Aero is installed, direct your camera over the above code and tap the link. You will then be asked to slowly pan your phone around the table top until a "surface is found." Once surface has been found, tap the small pin to place the object and enjoy!

City of
SANTA CLARITA

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Support Small Businesses ★

Small businesses are the cornerstone of the Santa Clarita community. As the City moves along the path back to normalcy after challenges of the past year, residents are encouraged to shop local and eat local. When you support local businesses, dollars from your purchases directly support community services and amenities that make Santa Clarita unique. Additionally, shopping locally adds to an outstanding quality of life that draws in individuals from across the region. Plan a night out in Old Town Newhall, do some holiday shopping in Valencia, grab a bite to eat in Canyon Country and more!



Santa Clarita Public Library

Adventure awaits at the Santa Clarita Public Library! The Old Town Newhall, Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy and Valencia Library branches welcome residents of all ages and interests to take advantage of everything the Library has to offer. Families can look forward to the annual Family Literacy Festival on December 4, at the Old Town Newhall Library for crafts, music and of course, books! Students can find support at the Library too with numerous resources for homework support, writing, research papers, language support, homeschooling and more. Whether you are an avid reader, seeking fun and free community programs or simply looking for a peaceful area to study, there is a place for you at the Santa Clarita Public Library. Sign-up for a library card and learn more about the Library's catalog, resources and upcoming events by visiting SantaClaritaLibrary.com.

Guard That Auto

Earlier this year, the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station launched a new public safety campaign – "Guard That Auto" – aimed at preventing auto-related thefts in the City. Keep your keys out of the hands of thieves and help protect your vehicle and valuables. Do not leave your keys in your car, as this is an invitation for crooks to steal it. Parking in your garage, driveway or under a street light are also great ways to deter would-be thieves. Remove any valuables and be sure to use a theft protection device whenever possible. Review these and other tips so you can learn how to Guard That Auto at santa-clarita.com/GTA.

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