



City of
SANTA CLARITA

STATE OF THE CITY

FALL/WINTER 2022
NEWSLETTER

MAYOR **LAURENE WESTE**
MAYOR PRO TEM **JASON GIBBS**
COUNCILWOMAN **MARSHA MCLEAN**
COUNCILMEMBER **BILL MIRANDA**
COUNCILMEMBER **CAMERON SMYTH**

City of
SANTA CLARITA



SANTA-CLARITA.COM ●

1987
CITY INCORPORATED

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF CITYHOOD



On December 15, 1987, Santa Clarita became the largest area ever to incorporate. On that day, the City was 39-square-miles with a population of about 100,000 residents. Fast forward 35 years, and our City has grown to more than 70-square-miles with a population of more than 228,000 residents.

Over the last three and a half decades, Cityhood has resulted in millions of dollars remaining in our community. These funds have enabled the City to provide the new facilities, programs and services our residents desire. For example, when our City was formed, there were just seven parks. This year we welcomed our 36th park with the opening of Vista Canyon Park.

Other benefits of Cityhood include 100 miles of off-street trails, more than 13,000 acres of preserved open space, three Metrolink Stations (with one more on the way), three Santa Clarita Public Library Branches, two Community Centers, anti-drug programs for youth, world-class events, hundreds of sports and recreation programs, the Aquatic Center, the Santa Clarita Skatepark, a new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, The Cube – Ice and Entertainment Center, the Trek Bike Park of Santa Clarita, an inclusive playground (with one more on the way), traffic and road improvements, preventing a new landfill – just to name a few.



1988
FIRST PARKS COMMISSION CREATED



1994
NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE



1994
FIRST CITY OF SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL



1990
FIRST CONCERTS IN THE PARK



1991
SANTA CLARITA TRANSIT BEGINS SERVICE

1992
SANTA CLARITA METROLINK GRAND OPENING



1997
CITY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

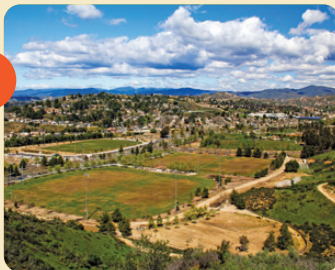
1998
GEORGE A. CARVALHO SPORTS COMPLEX GRAND OPENING



2003
SANTA CLARITA AQUATIC CENTER GRAND OPENING



2000
JAN HEIDT NEWHALL METROLINK STATION GRAND OPENING



2004
CENTRAL PARK GRAND OPENING



2005
VETERANS HISTORICAL PLAZA OPENS

2006
NEWHALL COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING



2007
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION DISTRICT APPROVED



2010
CROSS VALLEY CONNECTOR OPENS



2011
FALLEN WARRIORS MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION



2012
OLD TOWN NEWHALL LIBRARY GRAND OPENING



2013
FIRST LIGHT UP MAIN STREET

Thanks to the leadership of the City Council, Santa Clarita offers a safe, family-oriented community for residents to live, work and play. This is affirmed by regular awards and top rankings. Santa Clarita has won more prestigious Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence from the League of California Cities than any other city in the state. In addition, our City has been ranked as the third Safest City in California to raise a family by Safewise, the third Safest City in America by SmartAsset and the 14th Most Physically Active City in the nation by Chamber of Commerce.

Whatever brought you to Santa Clarita, be it the recreation programs, beautiful community, responsive City staff, events like Concerts in the Park or a safe, clean neighborhood, all of our community members help make our City one of the best in the nation.

As a City organization, we are honored to continue the tradition of a responsive, professional local government, working for the benefit of our residents and business community. We want to thank you for your interest and participation in our City. We hope that you enjoy living and working here as much as we do.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN

One of the driving factors behind the push for Cityhood 35 years ago was to bring local control to the residents of Santa Clarita. Incorporation meant a local government, locally held City Council meetings and locally provided services, including parks, street maintenance, community programming, permits, business support, recreation and much more.

Becoming the City of Santa Clarita also meant the creation of a City organization with local staff members who are responsive and accessible to the community. That value and dedication remains today. One of the key factors in our City Philosophy statement is to provide high-quality and timely services to our residents.

This is highlighted in our current You've Got a Friend at City Hall campaign. You no doubt have seen the colorful images of different City divisions highlighting the people behind the work, and contact information so you can access the services and resources you need.

You can also learn more about the work our City staff does on your behalf by following the City's social media platforms. Make sure to follow Santa Clarita on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and even TikTok.

Another great way to connect with the City is through our Resident Service Center (RSC). Available online and as a mobile app at santa-clarita.com/RSC, this is your one-stop spot for questions, concerns, requests, information and more. All requests through RSC are tracked and logged to ensure you will get a timely response.

As a City organization we are proud to have served the Santa Clarita community for the past 35 years, and we can't wait to see what the future holds.

Sincerely,

Ken Striplin
City Manager

2022
CITY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY



2016
SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



2021
THE CUBE, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SHERIFF'S STATION, CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENINGS



2017
CITY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2014
OLD TOWN NEWHALL ROUNDABOUT OPENS



COMING SOON TO CENTRAL PARK

If you've been to Central Park lately, you've seen that construction activities have begun on a much-anticipated buildout of the space. Since it was built, Central Park has been the home to a number of community events, including Concerts in the Park and countless adult softball games. In January, the City embarked upon a major capital improvement project to enhance Central Park through the addition of four multipurpose fields with sport field lighting, an exercise staircase, upgrades to the Central Bark dog park and lighted, accessible connections to a new 286-space parking lot. Keep up with the progress by following the City on social media!

A NEW ROLLER RINK IN THE WORKS

Tie up your laces and get ready to skate because a new roller rink is in development in Santa Clarita! The City is currently in the final phase of a project to design a highly anticipated roller rink next to the gymnasium at the George A. Carvalho Santa Clarita Sports Complex (20870 Centre Pointe Parkway). After the design stage has been completed, staff will begin the next steps toward making this Santa Clarita dream a reality. Construction on the roller rink is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2023.



Rink Rendering



WEST CREEK PARK INCLUSIVE PLAY AREA

The City recently held a groundbreaking event at West Creek Park, which will soon be home to a brand-new Inclusive Play Area! When complete, this play area will be nearly triple the size of the current space and feature inclusive and sensory elements that encourage children of all ages, sizes and abilities to play and learn together. In addition, a shade structure, community fitness area and Bankshot Playcourt – which offers basketball hoops at varying heights with non-conventionally angled backboards – will be installed. Construction is currently ongoing, and more information will be shared with the community about a ribbon-cutting event when the project is complete.

SANTA CLARITA AQUATIC CENTER POOL DECK REPAIRS

In early August, the City began a project to repair cracked pool decks and re-plaster the 50-meter and dive pools at the Santa Clarita Aquatic Center. Opened in 2003, the Aquatic Center is home to recreational swimming, as well as high school and elite swimming competitions each year. This project, which will also repair broken tile at the pools, replace diving board columns and install new Daktronics scoring-timing wiring and touch pads, is fully funded by Measure A allocations and is anticipated to be complete in early 2023. Aquatics will continue to offer reserved lap swim, water exercise, swim lessons and other programming at the Newhall Pool and Valencia Glen Pool while the Aquatic Center pools are closed.



SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Santa Clarita Public Library is here to help you succeed! Whether you are in need of research tools, computers, books or more, each of our library branches are ready to support all of our students and visitors on their next project. Be sure to take advantage of the free digital databases, newspapers, journals and tutoring websites when you use your library card. Throughout the fall season, remember to check out the wide variety of fun and engaging programs we have available at each branch, including Storytime, Teen Library Eats and Little Explorers. For more information on any of the back-to-school resources or fall programming, please visit SantaClaritaLibrary.com.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN JUSTIN DIEZ

In the City's biennial Public Opinion Poll, Santa Clarita residents named Public Safety as the most important issue facing our community. This is no surprise, considering the recent spike in crime that we have seen, not only in Santa Clarita but across the region.

I want to assure residents that your Sheriff's Department is working every day to drive crime down and maintain Santa Clarita's reputation as one of the safest cities in the nation. This is a recognition that we continue to earn. In fact, this summer, Santa Clarita was named the **third Safest City in California to Raise a Family by Safewise**.

We work hand-in-hand with the City on a comprehensive, multi-faceted crime reduction strategy to prevent and combat crime. This includes special operations and saturation patrols that target potential crimes, from DUIs to grand theft auto.

One of our biggest weapons in fighting crime is our vigilant community. Remember, if you see something, say something. You can report any suspicious activity to the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station at **(661) 260-4000**.

Maintaining the relationship with the community is also a high priority for the Sheriff's Department and our deputies. With that in mind, we are excited to bring back two programs that are long-time community favorites: The Community Academy and the Haunted Jailhouse. The Community Academy began July 19, and consists of a seven-week course focused on patrol procedures, jail operations, Detective Bureau investigations and more. It provides residents with a greater understanding of how station personnel serve our SCV community.

Mark your calendars for the return of **The Haunted Jailhouse on Sunday, October 16**. This will be the first Haunted Jailhouse held at the new station and will feature haunted mazes for residents of all ages, as well as various vendors, costume contests and games. This event is a great way for residents to engage with station personnel, as well as visit our new state-of-the-art station located off Golden Valley Road in Santa Clarita.

We continue to encourage our residents to follow our social media pages (Facebook: Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, Instagram: @SCVSheriff, Twitter: @SCVSheriff) for updates on all our future events, public service announcements and more.

Sincerely,

Captain Justin Diez

CITY HALL CEREMONIES

Say "I do" at Santa Clarita City Hall! The City Clerk's Office is ecstatic to offer wedding services to loving couples. City Hall Ceremonies offers residents the chance to make their special day memorable and hassle-free. Whether you choose to have an intimate ceremony or get a confidential marriage license, the City has everything you need to make it a one-stop trip. For more information about City Hall Ceremonies please visit santa-clarita.com/Weddings.



HOMETOWN HEROES

This upcoming Veterans Day, the City of Santa Clarita reminds the community of the sacrifice made by our active duty and veteran community members. The City has two programs that honor those who have served and continue to serve our country. The Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program recognizes currently serving active military personnel from the Santa Clarita Valley. The banners are displayed on our streetlight poles three times per year and offer family members a way to show their pride and support of our local heroes. Digital banners are displayed on the Hometown Heroes website year-round, at no cost to our military members and their families. Another display of gratitude and respect is permanently integrated in our City as one of our 36 parks. The Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall is a beautiful and peaceful place to reflect upon the sacrifices made by our local veterans, whose names are engraved on bricks that line the ellipse. For more information on our Hometown Heroes Banner Program, visit heroes.santa-clarita.com. To commemorate a veteran in your life with an engraved brick at the Veterans Historical Plaza, visit santa-clarita.com.





VETERANS DAY

The City of Santa Clarita invites you to attend the 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 Friday, November 11, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall (24275 North Walnut Street). This yearly event features special musical performances, guest speakers and a ceremonial changing of the flags. santa-clarita.com/Events

LIGHT UP MAIN STREET

Kick-off the holiday season in style at **Light Up Main Street in Old Town Newhall!** Each November, Main Street is transformed into a winter wonderland, and the City of Santa Clarita invites you to enjoy a one-of-a-kind celebration on Saturday, November 19, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Listen to holiday music, take in live performances and participate in festive activities. Light Up Main Street officially begins at 5:00 p.m. and the thousands of lights and 23-foot Christmas tree in front of the Santa Clarita Public Library Old Town Newhall Branch will be illuminated at 6:00 p.m. OldTownNewhall.com



STATE OF THE CITY



This year's State of the City event will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the new Canyon Country Community Center. Join the Santa Clarita City Council as they celebrate 35 years of cityhood and all of the award-winning amenities, programs, projects and events that make our City number one.

As always, the State of the City will be an opportunity to celebrate the progress and accomplishments that have occurred over the last year, while taking a look forward at what the future holds. This year, guests will enjoy a special look at new facilities, hear updates from our City Council, watch videos filled with the latest on City projects and much more. Tickets are on sale now, for more information please visit santa-clarita.com.

SENSES UPDATE

SENSES Block Parties take place on the third Thursday of every month from March through October in Old Town Newhall. These one-of-a-kind block parties bring live music, food trucks, themed activities and adult beverages to Main Street for an evening of entertainment and fun with friends! Don't miss the final two SENSES events of the year – September 15 (Outer Space) and October 20 (Fright Night). SENSES is held from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. OldTownNewhall.com



SC2025 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The City of Santa Clarita's 2025 Strategic Plan is on track, with new developments and opportunities that will help maintain the high quality of life our residents enjoy. Some highlights of the plan that are already in the works include a new bike park, continued programming and operations at the new Canyon Country Community Center, new portions of the Sand Canyon Trail and more! In addition, the City is in the process of acquiring a mobile command unit to more efficiently move and house resources and staff in the event of an emergency. To learn more about the 2025 Strategic Plan, please visit santa-clarita.com/SC2025.



HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The City of Santa Clarita is proud to make headway on the new **Community Plan to Address Homelessness**. This new, two-year plan builds on the existing efforts to prevent and combat homelessness. Through the collaboration with the **Santa Clarita Community Task Force on Homelessness**, the plan will focus on advocacy and coordination of resources, prevention, direct services and housing. This year, the City of Santa Clarita partnered with Supervisor Kathryn Barger to provide \$4 million to Bridge to Home. This money will be used to build a permanent homeless shelter that will provide 60 shelter beds, eight family homes in apartment-style units, meeting spaces and more. Family Promise's transitional housing project in Newhall will also provide affordable housing units for low-income and homeless families with children, as well as an emergency overnight unit. If you would like to learn more about the Community Plan, please visit SantaClaritaHomelessAction.org.

DFYINSCV



As we jump back into school, the City's **Drug Free Youth in Santa Clarita Valley (DFYinSCV)** is here to provide education, support and resources to our students and parents. DFYinSCV is a free drug prevention and education program that works with students in elementary, junior high and high schools across Santa Clarita. This dynamic program invites our local students to participate in fun and engaging monthly activities, join student-led club meetings and listen to a wide variety of speakers give informational presentations about substance abuse. This fall, we invite

all of our residents to attend the annual Parent Resource Symposium on September 23. The event will cover topics about prescription drug abuse and strategies to help your children cope with the many pressures they face at school, in the media and online. To learn more about DFYinSCV or the symposium, please visit DFYinSCV.com.



A MESSAGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PAT SPRENGEL

Zonehaven is coming soon!

As you are well aware, the City of Santa Clarita is vulnerable to wildland fires, most of which, thankfully, are quickly extinguished. However, when a fast-moving brush fire threatens communities, it is extremely important that we are able to convey information to the public as quickly and accurately as possible so that residents are prepared to take appropriate actions.

To this end, we will soon be implementing a new program that will enable us to more quickly inform the public of areas that have been identified for evacuation. More importantly, this new evacuation platform, called Zonehaven, allows the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, LA County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the City of Santa Clarita to view the exact same maps and any other information pertinent to incident management.

Even more important, you—the residents—will also have access to those maps.

The Fire Department has been working closely with the Sheriff's, OEM and the City to create roughly 70 zones within the City of Santa Clarita. These zones will be named, and those names will be based on either a landmark within the zone or a primary street. If and when we need to issue evacuation warnings or orders, this will be done by zone(s), and when you view the map online or through the app, the color of your zone will indicate its status (e.g. yellow for evacuation warning or red for evacuation order).

When we are ready to officially launch this program, we will be working closely with the City on the "Know Your Zone" public education campaign, which will provide you with much more detail.

Stay tuned...

Sincerely,

Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel

City of
SANTA CLARITA

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ECRWSS



SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the heart and pride of the Santa Clarita community, and residents are encouraged to support local businesses by dining and shopping throughout the community. Every dollar spent when you dine or shop locally directly supports community services and amenities that make the City of Santa Clarita unique. Whether you have a date night in Old Town Newhall, shop at your favorite boutique or grab a bite to eat at any of the delicious restaurants throughout our community—shop local and show your support!

ACCESS CITY SERVICES ONLINE

Did you know that 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 allows businesses and residents to get more information on City planning and quickly and conveniently apply for permits online.



Let your voice be heard!

★ ★ *Vote*
Santa Clarita

The next General Municipal Election
is November 8, 2022!

Visit RegisterToVote.CA.gov to
complete your voter registration or to
check your registration status.



Learn more about voting in
Santa Clarita at VoteSantaClarita.com
or by calling the City Clerk's Office
at (661) 259-CITY.

**HEADS
UP!**



WITH KIDS RETURNING TO SCHOOL, YOU CAN DO
YOUR PART TO REDUCE TRAFFIC-RELATED
COLLISIONS AND FATALITIES BY BEING A HEADS UP
DRIVER, CYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN.

#HeadsUp | santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp

**KEEP YOUR
CAR SAFE!**

**USE A THEFT
PROTECTION
DEVICE!**

To learn more, visit
santa-clarita.com/GTA



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