



# The Gazette.

5 CENTS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006

YEAR 12, NUMBER 1

## Community Center To Open.

By **FRANK FERRY,**  
Councilman For Newhall And  
Neighboring Communities.

**AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS GET  
SOME MUCH NEEDED ELBOW ROOM.**

**State-Of-The-Art  
Facility Completed  
On Time And On Budget.**

After seventeen months of construction, the Newhall Community Center — a state-of-the-art, 17,000-square-foot recreational masterpiece — will open to the public on Saturday, January 21, at 10 a.m.

Located at 22421 Market Street, adjacent to the Jan Heidt Newhall Metrolink Station, the new Community Center is a landmark destination for the community to enjoy a wide array of recreational and enrichment programs.

The new Community Center offers an award-winning boxing program, ballet folklorico, homework help, a toy library, a sheriff's sub-station, outdoor basketball, a performance area, eight program rooms, a



kitchen, offices and plenty of parking.

The brand-new Newhall Community Center was built by the city of Santa Clarita at a cost of \$7 million. The new center replaces a rented, 7,000-square-foot facility on San Fernando Road that was too small to accommodate the growing needs of

the community.

Since the city opened the original Community Center more than 10 years ago, membership has grown to more than 2,000 last year. The center has produced several boxing champions, including the professional, top-ten-ranked pro boxer, Juan Ruiz Jr.,

who learned how to box at the city's Community Center.

The Community Center's Ballet Folklorico program has won four national championships and offers a quality program for beginners and advanced dancers.

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## The Finest Hotel South of San Francisco.



**THE SHORT-LIVED SOUTHERN HOTEL, VIEWED  
FROM RAILROAD AVENUE AT MARKET STREET.  
COUNCILMAN BOB KELLAR WANTS TO SEE IT REBUILT.**

By **PAT SALETORE,**  
Executive Director,  
Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society.

**Great While It Lasted, The Southern Hotel  
Was In The Very First 'Plan' For Newhall.**

Henry Mayo Newhall envisioned his new town as a bustling city. Perhaps he wanted to bring the gracious society and culture of his home in San Francisco to the warmer climate of the Santa Clarita Valley. The first step in doing this was to create a railroad station for the line that came through in 1876. The next most important move was to build a sophisticated place in which mem-

bers of gracious society could comfortably stay in his embryonic city.

In 1878, Henry Newhall laid out the town and planned at its center what one visitor called, "one of the finest and best-appointed

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**Old Town Newhall Gazette.**

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# Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

## EDITORIAL.

# A New Plan For An Old Town.

Old Town Newhall revitalization officially entered its second phase on November 22 when the Santa Clarita City Council unanimously approved the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. It took effect thirty days later.

The plan lays out the future development of the Old Town corridor and modifies the necessary building codes to accomplish it.

More than a year in the making, the plan was crafted by the Pasadena urban planning firm of Moule & Polyzoides, whose representatives met numerous times with city staff members, local residents, property owners and merchants to coalesce their wishes for the downtown corridor into a blueprint for change.

The Specific Plan supplants the initial document the city has been following for the past decade — the Downtown Newhall Improvement Program, known as the “Freedman Plan” for its creator, Bay Area urban planner Michael Freedman. The Freedman Plan was a road map to many of the improvements the city has made in the downtown corridor over the past ten years, such as the Newhall Metrolink Station, opening Railroad Avenue, the

blend of Western, Victorian and Spanish building façades and the establishment of a redevelopment zone.

One big thing the Freedman Plan didn’t address was the zoning changes that would be needed to develop two- and three-story buildings along the main thoroughfare, with ground-floor shops and upstairs dwelling units. The new plan makes those changes.

The plan also calls for streetscape changes that will create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, as well as a number of new public and quasi-public projects that will draw more people to the downtown area, such as a children’s museum, a civic building and a Latin-themed outdoor market or *mercado*.

Responding to concerns of a building owner and tenants who feared the city would condemn their property to build the *mercado*, the city modified the plan prior to final adoption to un-designate their property for it. As it stands, the *mercado* could go anywhere.

City planners also met many times with residential property owners to appease fears about the use of eminent domain. The plan gives the

city (acting as the Redevelopment Agency) the power of eminent domain for residential property; it has had the power of eminent domain for commercial property in Old Town Newhall for the past decade but has never used it.

The city will need to keep its eye on a ballot measure currently being proposed by state Sen. Tom McClintock (who is running for lieutenant governor). McClintock’s measure would restrict the ability of government agencies to use eminent domain. His proposal is in reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. New London* (Connecticut), where the court held that New London could use eminent domain as long as it followed a plan that conformed to state law — much like the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.

Santa Clarita took the first steps to implement the Specific Plan in December when it issued a “request for qualifications,” or RFQ, to identify developers who are qualified to build some of the transit-oriented housing, parking garages, mixed-use buildings and civic structures that are outlined in the plan. Developers have until January 20 to respond to the solicitation.

The next step will be to put the projects to bid. Existing property owners ultimately don’t have to use the city-approved builders if they prefer to hire their own.

Ten years ago, Michael Freedman said that for Old Town Newhall to be successful, it would have to serve two distinct needs. It would need to continue to function as a neighborhood retail center, serving people who live within a one-mile radius; and it would need to add the types of businesses that attract “regional” customers from a three-mile radius.

Once upon a time, it did

serve both functions effectively. Old Town Newhall was the central business district for the Santa Clarita Valley.

Over the past thirty years, however, many of the regional businesses fled for greener pastures in the valley that once were wheat and onion fields. Yes, some regional businesses stayed, such as Newhall Hardware and many auto repair shops — and some have moved in, such as the El Trocadero and Egg Plantation restaurants and a pair of live theaters. But for the most part, Newhall lost its power to attract shopping dollars from a wider area.

Old Town Newhall functions effectively today as a neighborhood shopping center, but it must again attract a regional clientele if its business and property owners are to prosper. Thus the new Specific Plan focuses heavily on the type of development that will attract patrons from a wider area than the immediate neighborhood.

Recognizing that the initial draft of the Specific Plan completely overlooked the importance of existing neighborhood businesses and the necessity of serving the adjacent residents, the City Council instructed that those needs are to be considered as the plan unfolds. The burden will be on the people who implement the plan — city staff members, the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, the Planning Commission and ultimately the City Council itself — to make sure it happens.

Another specific plan could soon be in the works for Newhall — actually, for a ninety-five-acre swath of vacant land just north of the Old Town corridor.

The property is bounded by Placeritos Boulevard on the south, Circle J homes on the north, San Fernando

Road on the west and a Metropolitan Water District easement on the east. Many Santa Clarita residents know the southern portion of the property as the Cowboy Festival parking lot.

Once developed, the property will form a sort of “northern gateway” to Old Town Newhall.

The area is zoned for a business park. The landowner, Casden Properties, indicated it wants the city to change the zoning to accommodate eight hundred to fifteen hundred condominiums, block off 13th Street, and replace it with an easterly extension of 15th Street.

Both ideas have their drawbacks. City officials no longer believe the entire property is suited for a business park; nor are some of the nearby residents in Placerita Canyon too keen on the idea of adding hundreds of condos and losing their 13th Street access.

In December, city officials opened talks with Casden to discuss a specific plan for the land, with an eye toward development that will meet the needs of the city, the landowner and the community.

The matter was tentatively scheduled to go before the City Council for discussion in January. Stay tuned.

## The Gazette.

DISTRIBUTION: FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND.

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Post Office Box 802993  
Santa Clarita, Ca. 91380

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## Now Under Construction:

30,000-sq-ft. Treserras Supermarket ~ Coming in March to Old Town Newhall ~ Watch the Gazette for Details

# Master Plan For Master's College.

By **JASON SMISKO**,  
Senior Planner,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

**MAIN ENTRANCE TO COLLEGE  
CAMPUS WILL MOVE OUT  
OF PLACERITA CANYON AND  
ONTO DOCKWEILER DRIVE.**

**College Also Seeks To  
Develop Tract Of Homes.**

With so much happening in Old Town Newhall, it is no wonder that The Master's College is working on a plan that will improve the college, add more student housing, and help create a "college atmosphere" to the transformation that is underway in Newhall.

The Master's College has filed an application with the city of Santa Clarita and is in the process of preparing a master plan for its existing 95-acre college campus, located in the Placerita Canyon community. The master plan comes in response to requests from Placerita Canyon property owners for a plan of proposed future development and expansion of the college, and the requirements of the city's Unified Development Code.

The goals of the Master Plan are to anticipate future development of the campus; establish a maximum student



**L.A. BAPTIST COLLEGE RELOCATED TO PLACERITA CANYON IN 1961.**

and staff population count; move the main entrance to the campus outside of Placerita Canyon and onto Dockweiler Drive; construct a portion of Dockweiler Drive; and construct a new chapel.

The new main entrance for The Master's College would reduce the amount of vehicular traffic from students and faculty who use the current entrance on Placerita Canyon Road at 13th Street. The new main entrance would also provide for more direct pedestrian traffic from Placerita Canyon to Old Town Newhall, because a trail link from Dockweiler Drive to the trail along the Santa Clara River would be instal-

led, providing more recreational opportunities along the creek, such as a trail and bridge, and more playing fields and parking at Creekview Park. This link would contribute to the revitalization efforts outlined in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.

Originally founded as Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary in 1927, the school opened a campus in downtown Los Angeles in the 1940s as Los Angeles Baptist College. The college moved to its current location in Placerita Canyon in 1961 with the purchase of the Happy Jack Dude Ranch. In 1987, the campus was renamed The Master's College.

The college now has a total student enrollment of 1,105, including full- and part-time students. The campus has a total of 304 faculty and staff members.

Also included in the college's application with the city is a tentative tract map to create a residential neighborhood that would extend the existing Deputy Jake Way. This area is also owned by the college, al-

though is not a part of the master plan. The future home sites would be sold to a builder after the map creating the lots is approved by the Santa Clarita City Council.

The design of the Dockweiler extension and the proposed residential neighborhood are being finalized by the applicant.

The city of Santa Clarita has hired a consulting firm to complete an environmental impact report that will analyze potential environmental impacts the project may have. The city's Planning Division will host a scoping meeting in early 2006, where neighbors of the college in Placerita Canyon and in Old Town Newhall will be invited to discuss the proposed plans before a draft of the EIR is completed. Notices of the scoping meeting will be sent to property owners with the date, time and location of the meeting, once it is scheduled.

For more information about this project, contact Associate Planner Aimee Schwimmer at City Hall, 661/255-4330.

## Everything Fun Happens In Newhall.

By **ANDREE WALPER**,  
Economic Development  
Associate,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

**Mark Your Calendar For A  
Year Full Of Special Events.**

It's another banner year in Old Town Newhall, with many exciting events planned for 2006 — beginning with the grand opening of the city of Santa Clarita Community center on January 21.

The last weekend in April is the Thirteenth Annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, and two exciting events will be taking place in Old Town Newhall. On April 26, Cowboy Couture will return by popular demand. This fast-paced fashion show will feature designer and vintage clothing, as well as many outfits available for purchase over the weekend at Melody Ranch during the Cowboy Festival. Celebrity models will grace the stage of the Canyon Theatre Guild at this fun and lively festival kickoff event.

Then, on April 28, four new Walk of Western Stars plaques will be unveiled on the streets of Old Town Newhall. The Walk of Western Stars is a tribute to the legends of the silver screen, television and music industries. A tradition since 1981, the walk currently includes sixty-four plaques honoring such luminaries as John Wayne, Gene Autry, Ben Johnson, Sam Elliott and Melissa Gilbert. A brochure with the locations of all plaques is available at Santa Clarita City Hall.

In addition, there will be four events at William S. Hart Park, including an art show by the Women Artists of the West at Hart Hall; chuck wagon cooking demonstrations; entertainment at Heritage Junction; a presentation on Wyatt Earp; and a concert

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.**



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THEN AND NOW: ONCE A VACANT, WEED-FILLED LOT, TODAY THE 'NEWHALL TRIANGLE' IS A PLACE FOR SERENE REFLECTION.

## What Next For Veterans Historical Plaza?

By **LAURENE WESTE,**  
Mayor Of Newhall And  
Neighboring Communities.

City Is Preparing To Install  
First Art Piece, Honoring  
Civil War Drummer Boy.

Sculptures And 'Story  
Stations' Will Add Context  
To Plaza Honoring Veterans.

PRIVATE DONATIONS SOUGHT.

Even in a city as young as Santa Clarita, it is important to maintain a connection to the past. The sense of history in Santa Clarita is strong, and links to the past are cherished.

It is equally important, however, for a young city to look ahead to future generations.

On May 28, the city of Santa Clarita established a place steeped in history. On this day, the city held the grand opening of the Veterans Historical Plaza at the "triangle" formed by Newhall Avenue, Market and Walnut streets in Old Town Newhall.

Hundreds of members of the community came out to help the city dedicate the space to our nation's fine veterans. Following an impressive military flyover by a T-38 supersonic trainer, a procession was held, featuring the Knights of Columbus, local



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 355-Lost Patrol, and active members of each branch of the United States Armed Forces. Representatives from community organizations and the military, as well as from local, state and federal government agencies also witnessed the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

The plaza was greeted with enthusiasm by Santa Clarita residents and now stands as a beautiful tribute to our veterans. The construction and landscaping have been completed; however, the city is nowhere near finished with the site.

The city has established a place for remembrance and reflection. But what's next for the Veterans Historical Plaza?

Let us take a look ahead into the future.

The city has been busy collecting donations for the installation of several pieces of military art at the plaza. To date, donations have been collected for a war dog memorial, decorative urn planters, park benches, and a memorial plaque to the late Air Force pilot "Pete" Knight, whose record speed in a fixed-wing

aircraft (4,520 mph) still stands. Knight represented our valley in the State Senate when he died in May 2004.

The city is now preparing to install the first art piece, depicting famed Civil War drummer boy Willy Johnson. At a cost of \$50,000, the artwork attempts to capture the brave, young spirit of the drummer boy.

Generous donations from the community provided all funding for the project. The piece will be cast in bronze, and is but the first in a series of sculptures the city intends to add in the future.

Soon to be added to the plaza, as well, are several "story stations" in honor of the various United States military conflicts. The stations are designed to educate children and youth about American history and the service of our veterans. Funding for these story stations also is being generously donated by members of our community.

The city is still collecting donations for the various pieces to be included in the plaza. Anyone interested in donating can contact the Historical Veterans Memorial Committee at 661/251-7870.

In addition to making monetary donations, residents also have the opportunity to purchase commemorative bricks to be placed in the plaza walkway. The bricks can be engraved with up to three lines of text.

Families and friends are

encouraged to purchase bricks in honor of their loved ones. Visitors to the plaza can then come read the names of the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces, and see the messages left for them by their fellow members of the community.

In addition to beautiful commemorative art and brickwork, the city of Santa Clarita also will continue to utilize the Veterans Historical Plaza for patriotic community events.

On Veterans Day 2005, the plaza served as the backdrop for a touching ceremony by the Blue Star Mothers organization. In December it hosted a patriotic holiday celebration featuring local high school choirs. Visitors participated in a special holiday card signing for our troops overseas.

The city anticipates using the plaza to host similar events in the future, including memorial services, flag

ceremonies and patriotic holiday celebrations.

The Veterans Historical Plaza was one of the first facets of the city's Downtown Newhall Specific Plan to be completed.

The half-acre project broke ground in November 2004 and was ready in less than a year. It was designed to be a place of serene reflection and remembrance for individual contemplation and group gatherings dedicated to the service and sacrifice of veterans.

The plaza now serves as a proud monument to members of our community who deserve the utmost respect.

The city invites everyone to come to the Veterans Historical Plaza and take in the beautiful and moving tribute to our nation's veterans. In this serene park, one can feel the deep sense of history and be assured that the city is working to preserve these memories for future generations.

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# Arts Play A Vital Role In Old Town.

By **PHIL LANTIS**,  
Arts and Events Supervisor,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

**Newhall's Main Street Is  
A Showcase For Visual  
And Performing Artists.**

The last few months have seen several exciting events and projects that have made Old Town Newhall the place to be to experience our community's arts and culture.

October 2005 kicked off with the First Annual Santa Clarita Street Art Festival, an exciting new event that featured more than eighty street painters, from elementary school groups to nationally known professional artists. The event also featured great bands on two stages, fine arts and crafts vendors, a community carnival, animated movies at night, and more.

The Street Art Festival would not have been possible without the participation of the Old Town Newhall Association, the Downtown Mainstreet Association, Old Town Newhall businesses, and our wonderful sponsors, including The Signal, KHST AM-1220, The Newhall Land and Farming Company, the Loose Goose Wine Festival, and several other square and banner sponsors.

In conjunction with the Street Art Festival was the Fourth Annual Newhall Art Walk. The Art Walk is an art project that matches local and regional artists with businesses along San Fernando Road. The artists create artworks made from items found at their assigned business, which are then displayed inside that business for the entire month.

This year's artworks included everything from tortilla portraits of customers in the Mercado Jalisco to a sign above Newhall Paint that could only be read when the sun shined on the sign in just the right way to reveal words displayed by shadows.

The Art Walk also featured a painted surfboard at Billy's Surf and Ski Shop, a window painting at Newhall Hardware, sculptures made from dough at El Trocadero restaurant, and many more creative pieces. The Arts and Events Office wants to thank all participating businesses in this project — those mentioned above, as well as Abe's Newhall Pawn Shop, Commando Army Supply, The Olde Town Star, Roger Dunn Golf Shop, Treserras Supermarkets and Valencia Bicycle.

In November, the Santa Clarita Artists' Association held its Annual Art Classic, which featured more than fifty paintings, drawings, pho-

tographs and sculptures created by association members. Mayor Laurene Weste assisted Artists' Association President Scott Bruckner in presenting awards in multiple categories. It was a memorable evening of beautiful art and tasty food and drink.

Another cultural event that brightened Old Town Newhall was the First Annual Santa Clarita Independent Film Festival. Held at the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Repertory East Playhouse on November 11, 12 and 13, the festival featured shorts, documentaries, feature films, animation and a series of film panels and workshops. The quality of films was impressive, particularly for a first-year event, with works from all over the country and several local filmmakers' work represented. This festival, along with the International Family Film Festival, as well as the numerous films and television shows that are shooting in our valley, are really putting Santa Clarita on the Hollywood map.

As Old Town Newhall transforms with the implementation of the recently adopted Specific Plan, the arts will continue to be a valuable part of the exciting changes that are coming in the future.

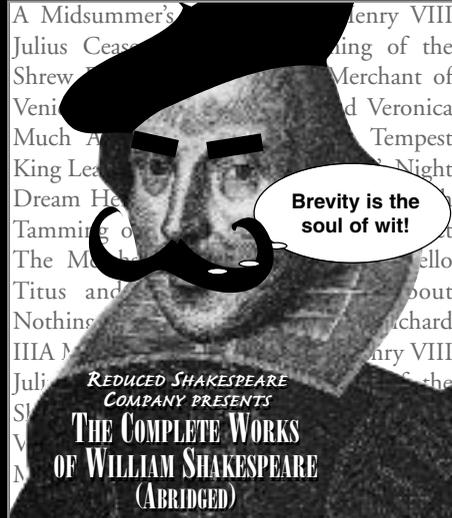
In the late 1990s, the city assisted the Canyon Theatre

Guild and the Repertory East Playhouse, formerly known as the Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre, in building their theater spaces. This investment was made so the theaters could serve as a linchpin in redevelopment efforts. These investments have strongly paid off by contributing to the energy and excitement that is currently felt in the Newhall community.

The city of Santa Clarita's Arts and Events Office is proud to partner with the arts

community to add to the cultural life of Newhall and the entire city, and to highlight the many talented local performing and visual artists by providing a place where the arts can flourish.

With the recent addition of public art displays, youth and professional exhibits and events, and cultural heritage programs and projects focusing on the Old Town Newhall area, the city of Santa Clarita is investing in a bright future for this historic region of our city.



A Midsummer's Dream Henry VIII  
Julius Caesar King of the  
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Much Ado About Tempest  
King Lear Night  
Dream He  
Taming of  
The Merchant of  
Titus and  
Nothing  
III A Midsummer's  
Julius  
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## Events, CONT.

FROM PAGE 3.

by the Sons of the San Joaquin in the Hart Mansion. Information on all Cowboy Festival events is available by calling 661/286-4021 or by visiting [www.cowboyleftival.org](http://www.cowboyleftival.org) on the Internet.

The Fourth of July brings the annual parade, starting at Hart Park and winding its way through Old Town Newhall to end at Newhall Park. The Santa Clarita Street Art Festival is scheduled for the first weekend in October. Last year's festival included chalk art paintings, music, children's crafts, skateboard demonstrations, craft vendors, carnival rides and

plenty of food.

September will bring the annual Native American PowWow to Hart Park. Visited by thousands, this event highlights the traditions of native Americans through their regalia, dance and music.

The winter holiday season will see the return of several traditional events, starting with the Metrolink Toy Train's visit to the Jan Heidt Newhall Metrolink Station. The brightly decorated train with its hundreds of lights and holiday musical show is always a big crowd pleaser. The Children's Parade will return with hundreds of children, pets and imaginative costumes.

Both the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Repertory East Playhouse provide live

theater entertainment in Old Town Newhall. "To Kill a Mockingbird" starts off the 2006 season at the Canyon Theatre Guild, playing through January and February, while the Repertory East Playhouse will feature "Reduced Shakespeare Company Presents the Complete Work of William Shakespeare" from mid-January through mid-February.

Also on its way to Old Town Newhall is one of the city's California Bears, to be located at the Canyon Theatre Guild. The California Bears is a public art project celebrating the heritage of the city of Santa Clarita and the state of California.

For details on all of these great events, visit Old Town Newhall on the Internet at [oldtownnewhall.com](http://oldtownnewhall.com) and click on "Coming Events."

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MOCKINGBIRD**

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2/11, 2/17, 2/18, 2/24, 2/25  
Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm: 1/29, 2/5, 2/23

**Charlie  
and the  
Chocolate Factory**

January 28th-February 25th  
Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm: 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25  
Sunday matinee at 2:00 pm: 1/19  
Sunday evenings at 6:30: 1/29, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26

Tickets: \$8-\$13  
Group Discounts Available

Information and Reservations (661) 799-2702 [www.canyontheatre.org](http://www.canyontheatre.org)

# 'Kingly' Downtown Neighbor A Part Of Revitalization Cast.

By **ALEX HERNANDEZ**,  
Administrative Analyst For  
Economic Development,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

**CITY SEEKS TO ATTRACT  
FILM COMPANIES TO FUTURE  
GATE-KING INDUSTRIAL PARK.**

**Six Percent Of Santa  
Clarita's Work Force Is In  
The Film Industry.**

**Newhall Businesses Will  
Benefit When Business  
Park Workers Shop And  
Dine In The Old Town.**

Five hundred and eight acres directly south of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan area will play a pivotal role in the city's revitalization efforts.

The proposed Gate-King Industrial Park is more than seven times the size of the area in the specific plan. Development and relocation of businesses to Gate-King will spur economic growth in the neighboring revitalization project area.

Paul Brotzman, the city's director of community development, hopes to expand Santa Clarita's entertainment and motion picture industry. He has coined the name "Media Center North" to promote the Gate-King Industrial Park as a potential entertainment hub encompassing a full film studio, back lots, sound stages and post-production companies.

The city's Economic Development Division recently commissioned a labor market study. The study found that six percent of Santa Clarita's total work force is involved in motion picture and television production. That translates to more than seven thousand workers, many of whom commute to larger entertainment hubs

such as Burbank and the San Fernando Valley.

Brotzman expects that the fully developed Media Center North will capture this highly skilled work force.

"We hope these well-paid employees help revitalize the stores and restaurants in Old Town Newhall by visiting them often and shopping locally," he said.

Gate-King was first presented to the city's Planning Department in 1999. The City Council and staff worked with the owner to subdivide the project into one hundred and six lots. The site includes industrial, commercial and open space zoning designations with full build-out of the site using two hundred and three acres.

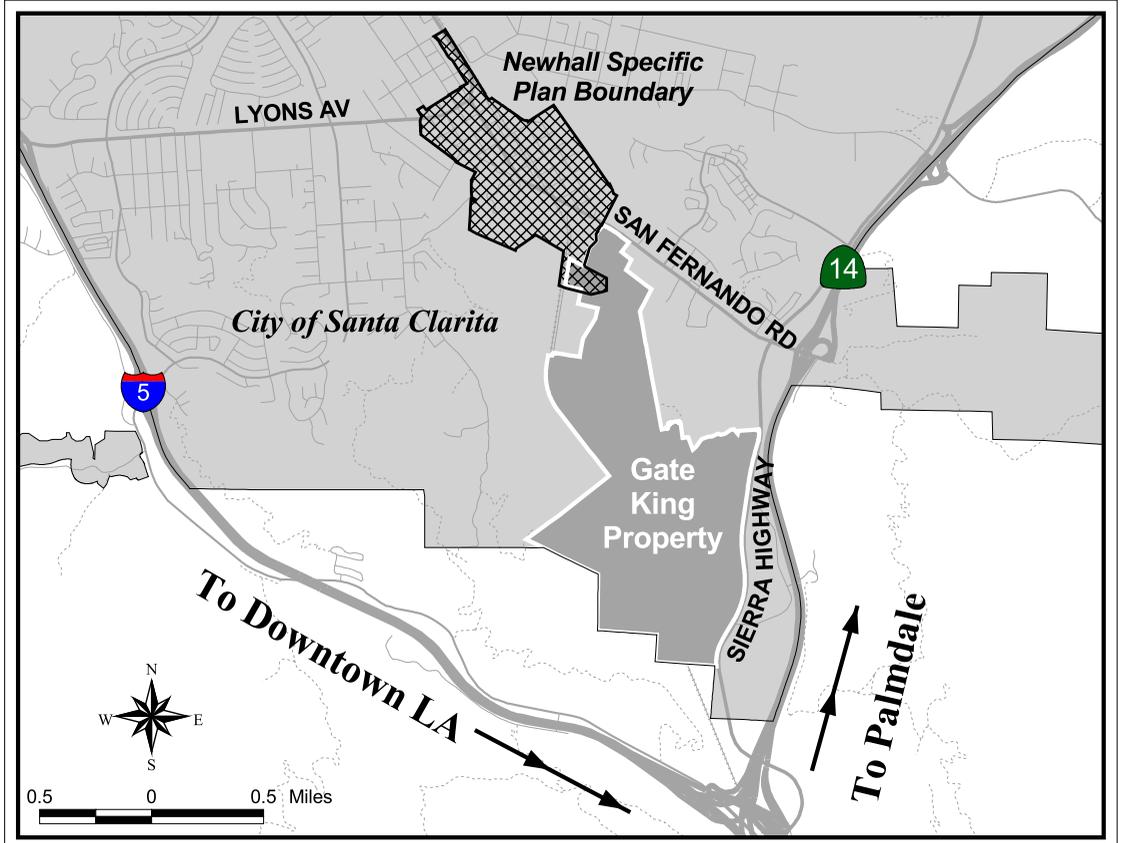
This acreage will accommodate up to 4.2 million square feet of industrial-commercial development, and provides upwards of seven thousand new jobs. At full build-out, businesses in Media Center North can provide approximately \$6.7 million in new retail expenditures, with Old Town Newhall expected to capture a majority of those expenditures.

Residents of Old Town Newhall and Santa Clarita also will be able to enjoy other public benefits from the development of Media Center North.

The owner has agreed to provide a tree planting program of up to five hundred trees over a five-year period, a Class I bike trail along two streets, and contributions over the next ten years to support Newhall youth sports leagues.

The project will also include a fire station, wildfire helipad, two on-site trail-heads, wildlife guzzlers and an open space buffer for the wildlife corridor that runs across Sierra Highway.

The developer has also agreed to a \$2.4 million cash



**WORKERS IN THE GATE-KING INDUSTRIAL PARK ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME SHOPPERS IN OLD TOWN NEWHALL.**

## **Gate-King Ind. Park – Media Center North: PROJECT SNAPSHOT.**

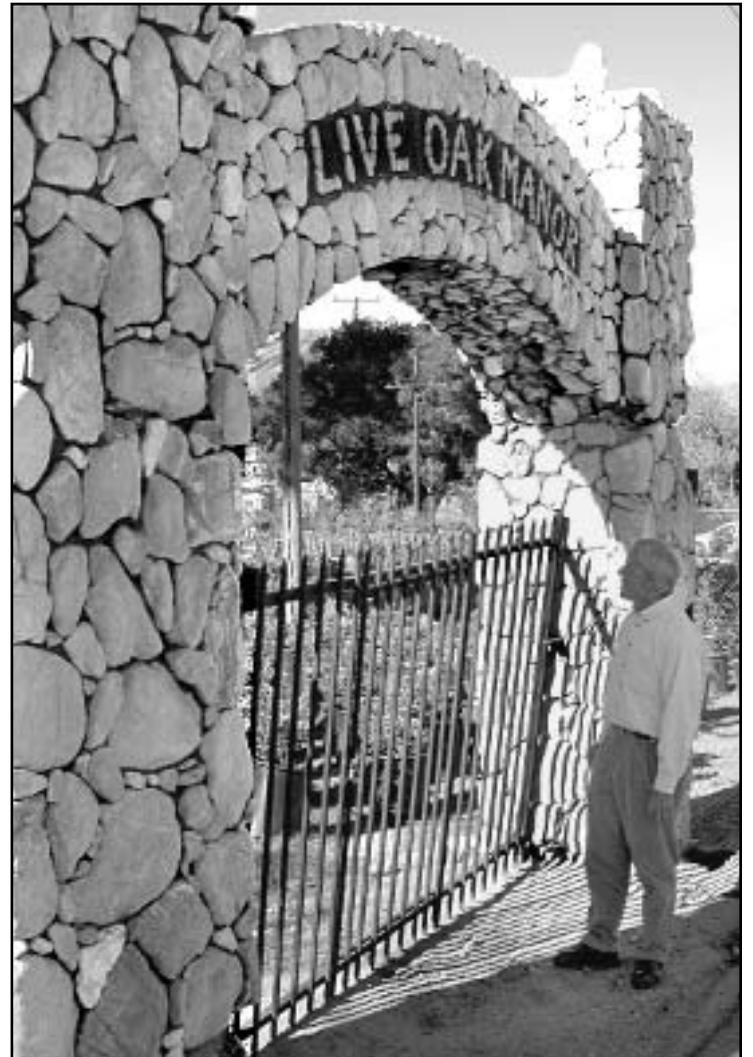
Potential for:

- ▶ 203 acres for commercial-industrial uses
- ▶ 4.2 million square feet of development
- ▶ 7,000 new jobs
- ▶ \$6.7 million in new retail expenditures

contribution for a pedestrian bridge over San Fernando Road and streetscape beautification, Newhall Community Center improvements, an entry sign to Old Town Newhall, an off-site park-and-ride facility, and preservation of the historic Pioneer Oil refinery.

The revitalization of Old Town Newhall will provide an urban environment for employees working at Media Center North to enjoy. The business park's adjacency to William S. Hart Park and Museum, as well as Newhall Creek, offers natural features and environments that employers can promote to their employees.

The synergy from Media Center North and Old Town Newhall will no doubt transform Santa Clarita.



**OWNER-DEVELOPER MARK GATES (SHOWN) WILL SAVE THE ROCK ARCHWAY ON SIERRA HIGHWAY AND INCORPORATE IT INTO THE ENTRANCE TO THE GATE-KING INDUSTRIAL PARK.**

# Newhall: A Gem In The Making.

By **PAUL BROTZMAN**,  
Director Of Community  
Development,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

**CITY NEEDS CONTINUAL  
INPUT FROM COMMUNITY.**

**Everything On Track To  
Break Ground On New  
Projects In Early 2007.**

This is an exciting time to live in Santa Clarita! The city is about to embark on one of the most ambitious projects it has ever undertaken: the redevelopment of historic Old Town Newhall.

For the past eighteen months, the city has been working closely with the community, local business owners and consultants to draft the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. This document, which has now been adopted by the City Council, will act as a guidepost for the city, residents, business owners and partners on how to enhance what is already a vibrant community.

It is important to realize, however, that the specific plan is only a guide. The city will be reliant on continual input from the public in order to shape and update the overall vision as the project grows and evolves. So please stay involved and keep up to date on the ongoing developments, because the city will be relying on you.

This month, the city is beginning the process of inviting developers or owners to submit proposals for the development of a parking structure and civic sites. By mid-year, we expect to begin entering into development or owner participation agreements for site development, and by the end of the year we hope to see actual development beginning.

There is already a lot of activity happening in Newhall right now. In addition to



a variety of unique restaurants and shops, Old Town Newhall is home to two outstanding local theater groups — the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Repertory East Playhouse. It is also the home of several exciting community events including the Newhall Art Festival. This year the festival was held on October 1 and 2 and featured nearly one hundred street artists along a five-block section of San Fernando Road.

Newhall is also home to one of the city's most important resources: the Santa Clarita Community Center. This facility supports a variety of youth and family activities, as well as athletics and the arts. The grand opening of the Community Center this month is a focal point for the community, and one that we at City Hall have looked forward to since construction began.

In the near future, you will begin to see a lot of work being done in and around the Old Town area. The goal of the project is to enhance Newhall, both by working with and assisting existing residents and business owners, while at the same time bringing in new opportunities for development and commercial growth.

Whereas the city recognizes that a considerable number of enhancements can be made to the Newhall area, we care committed to preserving and highlighting the Old Town's historic themes and feel. Work will begin on specific projects in Newhall following the start of the next calendar year.

I hope you are as excited as I am about revitalizing Old Town Newhall. There is a lot of hard work and collaboration on the long road ahead, but together we will craft an outstanding Old Town area that will become yet another gem within our city.

# In The Spotlight: Planet Soccer.

By **ALEX HERNANDEZ**,  
Administrative Analyst For  
Economic Development,  
City Of Santa Clarita.

Old Town Newhall is a hub for small business. National chain fast-food restaurants and retail stores are nowhere to be found. In an effort to highlight unique or new businesses, we will be spotlighting an Old Town Newhall establishment.

This month, the spotlight is on Planet Soccer, located at 24331 San Fernando Road.

Owners Ricardo Jimenez and Carlos Marroquin opened their fifteen hundred-square-foot store in September. Both are longtime residents of Valencia and avid soccer players who seized the opportunity to start a new venture.

Ricardo owns, and has operated, Ricardo's Auto Upholstery in Old Town Newhall for more than twenty-three years. When a thrift store two blocks from his upholstery business vacated its space, the door opened for Planet Soccer.

The owners say they found "the best location in the heart of downtown Newhall," and inked a five-year lease. Monthlong renovations to the interior included a new coat of paint, new carpet, more fixtures, and the addition of two twenty-seven-inch, flat-screen, high-definition televisions that play live games or pre-recorded matches.

Planet Soccer can be described as a destination sports store, much like another close neighbor — the Roger Dunn golf shop. Planet Soccer offers specialty soccer clothes and accessories from more than thirty lines of merchandise, including hard-to-find European team jerseys and other logo merchandise. Customers also can customize their merchandise and accessories by adding numbers, names or embroidery.

Both Carlos and Ricardo are fluent in Spanish. A majority of their customers are Spanish-speaking, but word of mouth and events like the



**CARLOS MARROQUIN AND RICARDO JIMENEZ  
OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF SPORTS APPAREL AT  
PLANET SOCCER, 24331 SAN FERNANDO ROAD.**

Street Art Festival in October have helped broaden their customer base.

New accounts with local schools and referrals from the Santa Clarita Soccer Center and other city leagues have helped Planet Soccer become an official Nike soccer supplier. The owners plan

to host a formal grand opening in early 2006.

Planet Soccer is a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 661/253-1800.

## WORDS TO THE WISE.

"History records moments of significant change. Rebuilding the corridor through Old Newhall will be this City Council's crowning achievement."

— **Dr. Richard Rioux, Founder, Old Town Newhall USA**  
June 9, 1996



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## Community Center, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

The city is most proud of the Amistad Award for best organization in Santa Clarita in service of the Latino community, awarded by the Hispanic Business Committee in 1995.

Every year, volunteers donate hundreds of hours teaching karate, tutoring, coaching and fund-raising to help the center. This community spirit benefits not only the young people who enjoy the activities, but also our entire community by providing high quality, worthwhile activities for youth who might otherwise turn to drugs, gangs and crime.

I am very proud of our Community Center staff members, who continually go "above and beyond" to provide not only the best programming but also to mentor

the hundreds of children who visit the center each day. The Community Center supervisor is Hope Horner, who was also named the city of Santa Clarita's Employee of the Year for 2005. Center coordinators include Yolanda Calderon, Lesley Mendez and clerk typist Carmen Garcia-Hoffman. Rounding out the staff are Gilbert Amaro, the boxing program coordinator, and Luz Medina, the Ballet Folklorico instructor.

Our city staff was successful in completing this project on time and on budget. I want to congratulate James Tong, Tara Concepcion and Robert Newman in the Public Works Department, as well as Rick Gould, Adele Macpherson and Elena Galvez in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, for their tireless effort.

I encourage you to stop by the new Community Center and check out the new facility and many programs offered for the community. You will be glad you did.

# In Newhall, History Is All Around You.

By **DARRYL MANZER**,  
Gazette Correspondent.

It's FUN AND EASY TO  
UNCOVER NEWHALL'S PAST.

Like United States History,  
Local History Hasn't Always  
Been Taught Quite Right.

*"I think most people assume that America was founded by the Pilgrim Fathers. That's the big myth which England has grown up with."*

— Tom Wareham, curator  
of collections at London's  
Museum in Docklands.



**THE HART MANSION IS OPEN FOR FREE TOURS  
WED.-FRI. FROM 10-1 AND SAT.-SUN. FROM 11-4.**

rather an all-Anglo-looking miner, complete with the turned-up hat brim that we see in old movies of the later Gold Rush in California.

Even living in Mentryville didn't teach me the name of the place until I had been there for two or three years. It was just "Pico Canyon" to us who lived there.

There are many little — and big — bits of history in Newhall and the Santa Clarita Valley, the railroad tunnel to the San Fernando Valley being one. At one time, it was the longest tunnel in the world.

Of course, there is also Mentryville, with the first commercially produced oil in the state, and Beale's Cut and the Oak of the Golden Dream, site of the first discovery of gold in California. Don't forget the home of actor William S. Hart. And what about the first oil refinery in California? Yep, it's in Newhall, too.

Recently added are the Walk of Western Stars and even a new Veterans Memorial Plaza. The Santa Clarita Valley also is the place where a "golden spike" was driven to link northern and Southern California by rail.

How many movies and television shows have used the Santa Clarita Valley as a location for filming? Many

hundreds have been made in the valley and are still being filmed almost every day at some location near you. I can show friends here in Virginia what my hometown is like, just by watching television.

History is all around you in the Santa Clarita Valley. You don't even have to look very hard. You could start in Old Town Newhall one weekend and each weekend after that for a year and still not see it all.

Perfect family outings to take, just about anytime, include old mansions (in Mentryville and Hart Park), geologic formations (Vasquez Rocks), trails, train stations and homes, and even an old oak tree or two where you might rediscover your lost gold mine. Drive up to Fort Tejon where camels were put to work after the United States Army tried, and eventually failed, to use them as a mode of transportation. (Tejon was also the site of one huge earthquake in 1857).

It is all in the Santa Clarita Valley. At the current price of gasoline, it is the cheap way to learn a little more about your own back yard.

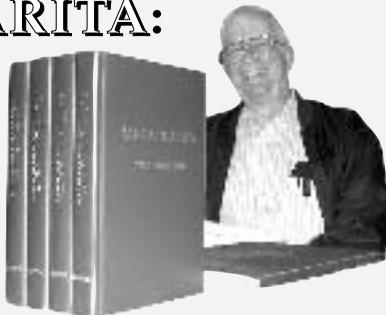
*Darryl Manzer grew up in the Pico Canyon oil town of Mentryville in the 1960s. Today he lives in Virginia.*

## SANTA CLARITA:

"The Formation and Organization of the Largest Newly Incorporated City in the History of Humankind"

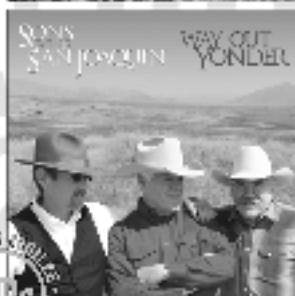
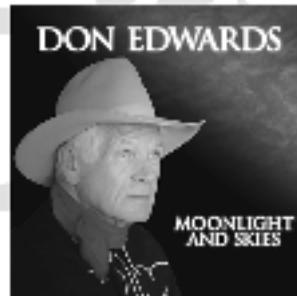
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Most people in England — and America, too — think of the Pilgrims as the beginning of America. Sitting here in Virginia as we approach the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in 1607, I am reminded that what I was taught in the schools of the Santa Clarita Valley wasn't always accurate.

By the time the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the colony in Virginia had already celebrated the first Thanksgiving. And yes, the local natives came to that first celebration, too. Funny how that was never mentioned during my school years at Castaic Union Elementary, Peachland Avenue Elementary, Placerita Junior High or Hart High School.

Local history wasn't fully taught, either. I knew nothing of the local American Indian population until I was at least 40 years old. And of the Spanish and Mexican history of California, little was mentioned other than the twenty-one missions and the Gold Rush of 1849.

What the heck, the mascot for Placerita Junior High was a miner. The caricature wasn't of a Mexican-looking miner as we had in this valley throughout the 1840s, but

# Scenes From The Old Town Newhall Children's Parade.

DECEMBER 10, 2005



**Old Town Newhall**

**...the Best is yet to come**

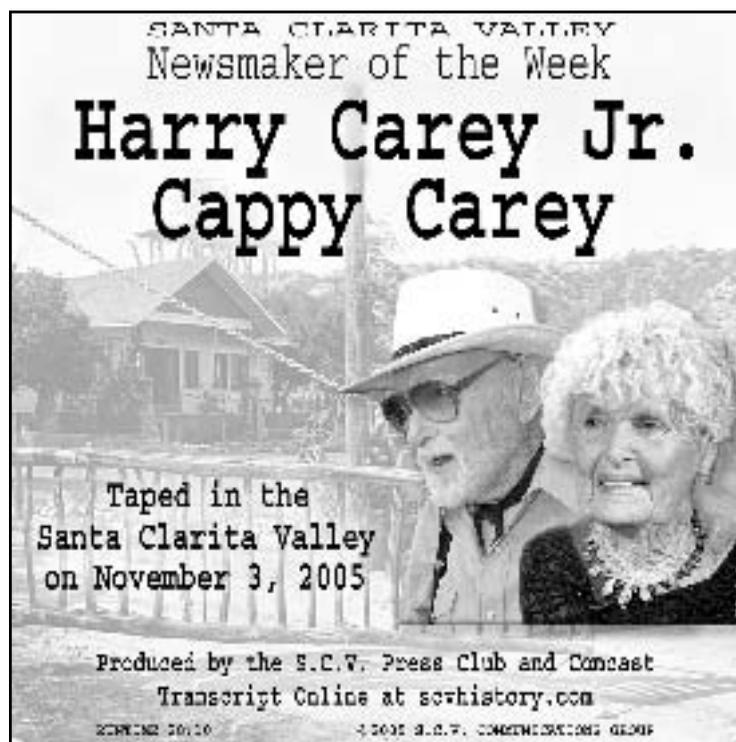


**The Newhall Redevelopment Committee Thanks:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Old Town Newhall Association (OTNA)        | Downtown Mainstreet Association |
| Newhall Ice                                | Jazmin's Bakery                 |
| Tressierras Market                         | Prayer Angels for the Military  |
| Cottage on Walnut                          | Hart High School Choir          |
| Canyon Country High School Choir           | Saugus High School Choir        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Claus (aka: Mr. & Mrs. Purnell) |                                 |

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### HARRY CAREY RANCH HOME NOW A MUSEUM.

Veteran Western character actor Harry Carey Jr. and his sister, Cappy Carey, both lately of Santa Barbara, were the guests of honor at the November 3 dedication of their childhood home in Saugus as a Los Angeles County park and museum.

The home, which cost \$3,000 to build in the 1930s, is located inside the residential community of Tesoro Del Valle, north of Copper Hill Road and west of San Francisquito Canyon Road. It is officially known as Tesoro Adobe Historic Park and is open for viewing on Saturdays.

Harry ("Dobe") and Cappy were born in the 1920s in the original wood-sided ranch home. It burned to the ground on Friday, September 2, 1932, and was replaced with the current adobe structure.

Their parents, Harry Carey (Sr.), whose film career transcended the silent and "talkie" eras, and actress Olive Golden, homesteaded one hundred sixty acres of land at the mouth of San Francisquito Canyon around 1916 and eventually grew their holdings into a 1,795-acre ranch. They built a Western Trading Post that offered handicrafts made by Navajo Indians who lived on the property. The trading post was destroyed and the couple who ran it lost their lives in the flood of March 12-13, 1928, when the St. Francis Dam, about seven miles up the canyon, collapsed.

Harry Sr. rebuilt the ranch and kept it until 1945. In 1953, the property was sold to Bernard "Barney" Clougherty and his brother, Francis Clougherty, owners of the Farmer John line of meat products. Together with a builder-partner they formed Montalvo Properties LLC in 1998 to develop the land for homes.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society is offering a half-hour "Newsmaker of the Week" interview with Dobe and Cappy Carey on DVD. The Careys discuss their childhood in the Santa Clarita Valley on the program, including their recollections of actor William S. Hart and their school days in Newhall. Produced by Comcast and the Santa Clarita Valley Press Club, the program incorporates numerous film clips and photographs from the Careys' private collection. To order call 661/254-1275 or visit the Saugus Train Station Museum at Heritage Junction Historic Park in Newhall, weekends from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### LEARN HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS.

Do you have some cherished family photographs that you want to last forever? They won't, unless you care for them properly. Teresa Mesquit from the Getty Research Institute will show you how to preserve old photographs for posterity on Sunday, January 22, during the annual membership meeting of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. The meeting starts at 2 p.m. at the Saugus Train Station Museum. The public is invited to attend. For information call 661/254-1275 or visit scvhs.org on the Internet.

## Hotel, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

establishments outside of San Francisco." It was the Southern Hotel.

In terms of today's landmarks, it was located at the intersection of San Fernando Road and Market Street, facing Railroad Avenue, which was then known as "Main Street." The Southern Hotel was a large, square, wooden, two-story Victorian building surrounded on the ground floor with a shaded porch that was held up by decorated wooden columns. Above, on the second floor, an elegant, railed verandah surrounded it. The building was topped by an elaborate cupola, complete with a widow's walk, reminiscent of Henry Newhall's Yankee heritage.

In front of the grand hotel was a square where Newhall envisioned trees, suggestive of the village greens of his childhood. A stable would house the horses and carriages that his hotel guests would need.

The hotel was initially incorporated under the management of his ranch foreman, D.W. Fields. Soon after, Newhall's cousin, Joshua O. Newhall, arrived on the scene to manage it.

Born in his uncle's home town of Saugus, Massachusetts, J.O. Newhall had been in his uncle's employ in San Francisco as a clerk for Newhall Sons & Co. auctioneers and commission merchants. J.O.'s wife, Laura E. Terry, was a prominent novelist of the day. They moved to Newhall and made their home at No. 1½ Spruce Street, opposite the Southern Hotel. (Spruce was renamed "San Fernando Road" and house numbers were changed to five digits in the 1950s.)

When J.O. Newhall took over the management of the Southern Hotel, Fields was relegated to running a general store in one corner of the building. The store was later separated later and run by a number of people, beginning with J.O. Newhall.

On the side of the hotel that faced what is now San Fernando Road was an elegant dining room. On the side of the building nearest what is now Market Street, replac-



**THE SECOND SOUTHERN HOTEL AT SPRUCE STREET (SAN FERNANDO ROAD) AND MARKET STREET WAS NOT AS ELABORATE AS THE ORIGINAL.**

ing the store when it was moved out, was a gentlemen's bar run by D.W. Boynton. There was a reading room for contemplative endeavors, and a ladies' parlor upstairs to accommodate the conversations unique to the fairer sex.

Stagecoaches stopped at the Southern Hotel coming from Los Angeles through Pico Canyon and Ventura or Santa Barbara. Lee Amroni drove the "telegraph stage" between the hotel and the oil town of Mentryville.

Oil men were only one group of people to whom Newhall intended to cater; he also wanted to attract mining and land speculators, business owners and other people to his new city.

Exactly when the Southern Hotel first opened for business is something of a mystery. Modern references list the date as 1878, the same year the town of Newhall was erected in the current Old Town Newhall location. However, according to a contemporary reference that was published in 1889 and only recently rediscovered, "In 1887 (J.O. Newhall) opened the hotel in Newhall, which burned down October 23 of the same year."

Credence should be given to this early account, since it is likely that J.O. Newhall himself approved the text prior to publication.

Modern references list the date of the fire as October 1, 1888. Either way, the Southern Hotel did burn to the ground — a common fate for wood-framed build-

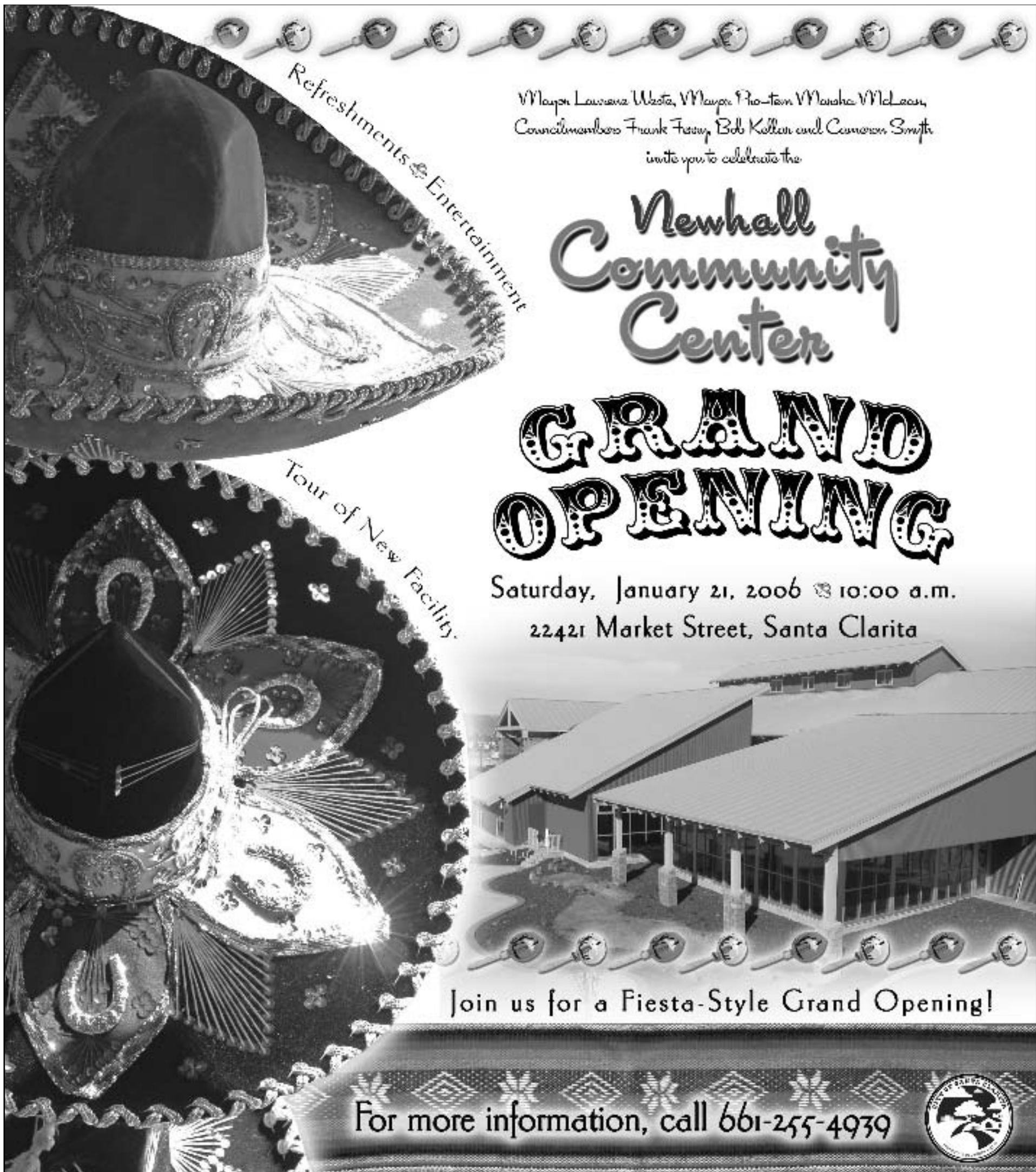
ings in an area where water is scarce.

Little could be done to stop a fire once it had caught on such a building. There was no rebuilding it at the time. Henry Newhall had died from injuries sustained by a fall from his horse while visiting the southern ranch in 1882, and there was little interest in rebuilding the hotel, then valued at \$300,000.

George Lowden remodeled the surviving stables from the hotel into a rooming and boarding house, calling it the (Second) Southern Hotel, but it was nothing like the scale of its predecessor. Lowden finally lost the place when the mortgage went into foreclosure.

Albert C. Swall, an active developer of commercial properties in Newhall at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, built a two-story brick structure in 1914 on the site of the old Southern Hotel and called it the Swall Hotel. From there, he also managed the local post office. It burned in 1916; this time, it was rebuilt — only to be destroyed again in the Sylmar Earthquake of February 9, 1971. Again it was rebuilt, with a Spanish stucco façade. It stands today, anchored by a Work Boots store.

Recently there has been talk of rebuilding the Southern Hotel. It is an interesting proposition. If Henry Newhall could comment, I am sure he would support that. Although the large, bustling successful city he envisioned did not happen in his lifetime, it has finally come to pass in ours.



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