



The Gazette.

5 CENTS

JULY-AUGUST 2006

YEAR 12, NUMBER 4

75 Years: A New Frontier.



MORGAN WOODWARD.

By LEON WORDEN

Chairman, Santa Clarita Parade Committee.

Newhall's Independence Day Tradition Continues.

Veteran Western actor Morgan Woodward ("Cool Hand Luke," "Dallas") will lead the 75th anniversary Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade through the streets of Newhall on Tuesday, July 4.

Hollywood notables to serve as division marshals include 2006 Walk of Western Stars honoree Andrew Prine ("Have Gun, Will Travel," "Gettysburg"), Western leading lady Donna Martell ("Apache Rose," "77 Sunset Strip") and a "float-load" of cast members from the HBO Series "Deadwood," led by producer A.C. Lyles and child actress Bree Seanna Wall (Sofia Metz).

The parade kicks off in front of Hart Park at 9:45 a.m., traveling up San Fernando Road, turning

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Rock To The Salsa Beat.



L.A. CARPOOL'S GLORIA T.

Free Post-Parade Concert
Features Top L.A. Musicians.

FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE.

Mix Carlos Santana and Steely Dan, salt it with Cal Tjader, pepper it with a hot jazz trumpet, trombone and sax and you've got L.A. Carpool — one of the steamiest salsa-jazz-rock sounds on the Southern California music scene.

With English lyrics, Spanish background vocals and an original conga beat, the twelve-member

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EPOCHAL CHANGE: OLD TOWN NEWHALL WASN'T THE SAME PLACE IN THE 1890s (Left) THAT IT WAS IN THE 1920s (Second Photograph) OR THE 1940s (Third Photograph). TODAY (Right) IT BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLANCE, AND MORE CHANGES ARE COMING.

Changes Are Part Of Newhall's History.

By CHRIS PRICE

Assistant City Engineer,
City Of Santa Clarita.

Architects Are
Developing 'Old Town'
Style Streetscape.

Engineers Will Design
New Traffic Pattern.

Old Town Newhall is changing again. The first real "town" in the Santa Clarita Valley started changing barely a moment after it eked into existence way back in the late 19th Century. Just a few mouse-clicks away, inside the photo archives of scvhistory.com, the curious will observe that Old Town Newhall has changed many times in its roughly one-

eighth of a millennium of continuous settlement.

If you didn't know already, looking at the familiar-feeling, black-and-white photographs and reading even a few of the accompanying stories will reveal the real folks whose names appear on a good majority of the street signs in today's Newhall.

If you tour Newhall today, you will find that the

city of Santa Clarita and the community have been steadily adding amenities over the last two decades. The Jan Heidt Newhall Metrolink Station — located right where the old Newhall Depot used to be — helped facilitate the realignment and expansion of Railroad Avenue. Both must continue to accommodate more and more of our commuters — who don't cur-

rently make the time to stop in Newhall often enough on their way to and from work outside of town.

The new Veterans Memorial Plaza and Community Center, each acting as a bookend to the center of Old Town by way of Market Street, are already serving the pleased residents of the neighborhood.

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Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

EDITORIAL.

No Summer Break For City.

Summer may be a time for rest and relaxation, but not for the folks at City Hall. Summer, for them, is a time to gear up for the onslaught of new business they'll face in September and October.

For the staffers who are tasked with implementing the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, summer vacations are effectively canceled. Come fall, the wheels should already be in motion to change the streetscape and traffic flow through Old Town Newhall.

As we've been reporting, Old Town Newhall is going to be a different place. Plans are afoot to develop a historic preservation ordinance so that our heritage isn't lost, but many of the physical characteristics of the town will change.

Most noticeably, San Fernando Road will no longer be a major arterial thoroughfare carrying high volumes of traffic. Within the Old Town section, San Fernando Road will be narrowed to two lanes, ending in a "T" intersection at Lyons Avenue. The arterial roadways will be Newhall Avenue, carrying traffic through to Valencia, and Railroad Avenue, carrying traffic through to Saugus.

Some streets will get new names, as well. The Old Town portion of San Fernando Road from 5th Street to Lyons will be called "Main Street." South of the Old Town, from 5th to Highway 14, today's San Fernando Road will be called "Newhall Avenue." North of the Old Town, from Lyons to roughly Magic Mountain Parkway, today's San Fernando Road will be called "Railroad Avenue."

These changes won't happen overnight — or even this year — but much of the engineering will be done over the summer.

The other major undertaking this summer pertains to the North Newhall area. Most of it is undeveloped — that big, vacant area east of San Fernando Road between 13th Street and the Circle J development that you might know as the "Cowboy Festival parking lot."

In the past few months, the project area has expanded to include the future connection of Lyons Avenue and Dockweiler Road in Placerita Canyon. It has also expanded to encompass the businesses on the west side of San Fernando Road between 14th Street and the Wiley-Princessa bridge.

What should this two-hundred thirteen-acre area become? Homes? Businesses? Baseball stadium? Landfill? Just kidding. Seriously, the city recognizes that "whatever" shouldn't be allowed to happen. "Whatever" is what happened to Old Town Newhall and other parts of Santa Clarita before the city was born in 1987 and started taking a serious interest in good planning in recent years.

You will have a voice in what happens to the North Newhall area — and some of

your first opportunities to get involved are coming this summer. The city is already meeting with North Newhall property owners, and on Wednesday evening, August 2, the city will hold a community workshop to present an overview of the project and listen to your ideas (see story, page 18).

Then, over a period of several days in late September, the city and the consulting firm of Moule & Polyzoides — the same firm that developed the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan — will hold a number of "charettes" (small group meetings) to solicit more intense public input as they put some teeth to the North Newhall Specific Plan.

It's clear that some residents were caught off-guard with certain aspects of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. The local news media carried numerous stories and the city issued many press releases to solicit public input — and still, some of the changes (such as the street renaming and reconfiguration) have come as a surprise to some people.

If you're reading this, you're not one of those people. The Gazette was on hiatus during the development of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, but it's back for the North Newhall Specific Plan. Each edition of the Gazette reaches fifty thousand Santa Clarita Valley households and businesses via The Signal newspaper (with an additional distribution of five thousand), and we'll continue to update you as the plan unfolds.

On a personal note, your editor is pleased to see the growth of the arts in Old Town Newhall. Particularly exciting is the Canyon Theatre Guild's decision to bring back "Fiddler on the Roof" with Mike Levine in the starring role (see story, page 17).

This writer remembers Levine's magical portrayal Tevye in the CTG's production of "Fiddler" eleven years ago at Valencia High School. If you enjoy the film, you're in for a thrill. This is even better.

With a cast of a hundred-plus, it's too big a production for the Canyon Theatre Playhouse in Old Town Newhall, so they'll be staging it at the College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center, July 29 through August 30. Don't be surprised if there are demands for a holdover.



From The Mailbag.

There During Building Of Tex Williams Home.

Dear Editor:

I just read that they tore down the Tex Williams house. My family moved to Newhall in 1958 and built a house on Cross Street next to what is now Gibson Grove.

It seems like just yesterday when I was a kid and watched them build the Williams' house in 1960 or so. It had a central atrium garden, something new at that time. A bunch of us kids would sneak over after the construction people left and snoop around. I wish I had taken a picture, but I think I was too young for a camera back then.

JANET DOUTRE HARLESS,
Eugene, Oregon.

Reader Has Suggestion For Managing Parking.

Dear Editor:

I have to object to the back-in angle parking proposed for the reconfiguration of San Fernando Road. Backing up is about the most dangerous thing that you can do with a vehicle, particularly when you are obstructing the flow of traffic and backing against that flow.

It is much safer always to go forward, since your visibility is much better. The

sketch (below), while reducing the total number of parking places per block, allows parking while always going forward. My guess is that this would allow a smoother flow of traffic and result in fewer accidents.

TOM HANSON,
Newhall.

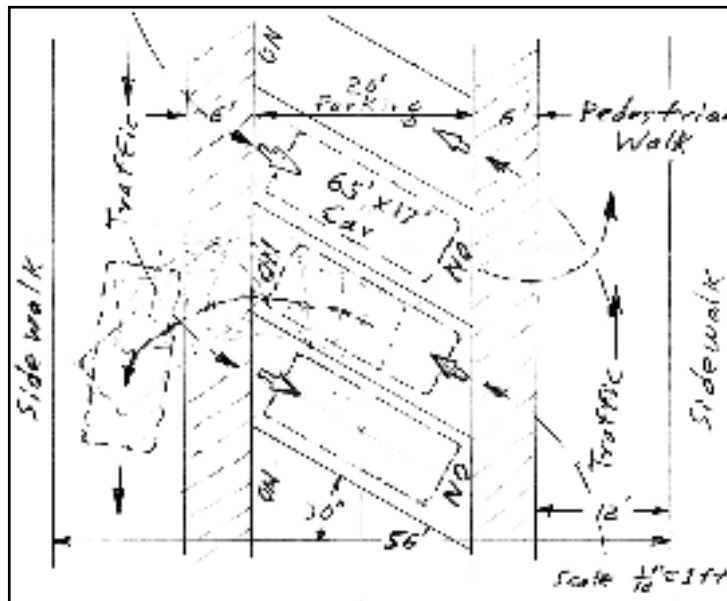
Couldn't They Think Of A More Clever Name?

Dear Editor:

"Main Street" is a terribly uninspired name, not to mention a not-so-subtle slap in the face to the Spanish heritage of most of the residents in the affected area. At least use something a little less generic. Why not have a contest and let the people decide what to call (San Fernando Road)?

DAVE RICKMERS,
Tick Canyon.

The Old Town Newhall Gazette welcomes your comments. Letters express the opinions of their authors and are not necessarily the opinions of Old Town Newhall USA or The Gazette. The publisher reserves the right to edit or withhold material submitted. Send letters to the e-mail address or post office box at left below.



TOM HANSON'S IDEA FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING.

The Gazette.

DISTRIBUTION: FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND.

Send Correspondence To:

OLD TOWN NEWHALL USA
Post Office Box 802993
Santa Clarita, Calif. 91380

letters@oldtownnewhall.com

VISIT OLD TOWN NEWHALL
ON THE INTERNET

www.oldtownnewhall.com

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
THE SIGNAL NEWSPAPER.

Visit Old Town Newhall 24/7 On The Internet.

By PHILIP ELLIS
Chairman, Newhall
Redevelopment Committee.

Revamped Web Presence Provides Helpful Information For Residents, Developers And Media.

It's amazing, really, and I suppose in a way a bit ironic, given the historic nature of our community. But we've made the jump into the technology age. Newhall is on the Internet.

Thanks to the city of Santa Clarita, in partnership with Gazette Publisher Leon Worden, everything you've ever wanted to know about what's happening in Newhall is live and on the World Wide Web.

Using the Web site is as simple as turning on your computer and going to www.oldtownnewhall.com. There is literally something for everyone on the site, which is split into several sections including:

◆ **Newhall News:** This section of the site contains all types of information regarding what's happening in Newhall — from social events to the arts, shopping and dining opportunities, historic resources and much, much more. Newhall News is your way to stay on top of the scene in Newhall with just the click of a mouse.

◆ **Development:** If you are a developer who is interested in investing in the Newhall area, or an interested business owner or resident in the community, this section has a tremendous amount of information regarding the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan and how it will enhance the neighborhood.

◆ **Old Town Newhall Gazette:** Did you miss a copy of the Gazette, or would you like a free subscription?



This section of the Web site allows anyone to examine past Gazette articles or subscribe online. With this exciting feature, everyone can keep up to date on everything happening in Newhall.

◆ **Press:** If you are a member of the press, we haven't forgotten you. This section of the Web site allows members of the media to attain a variety of different information regarding Old Town Newhall and the specific plan, as well as upcoming events in the community.

◆ **Contact information:** We understand that no printed material or Web site can ever take the place of talking to a person. This section will give you a direct link to staff members who will be able to help you and answer any questions you might have about anything happening in Newhall. Again, they're just a mouse click away.

As I've said in my previous messages, these truly are exciting times. Now, with the help of modern technology, a lifetime of information is at our fingertips. I encourage each of you to visit the Web site and stay involved in the future of our wonderful community.

Only through good communication, information sharing and partnership can our vision of the future become a reality. There is no doubt in my mind that the new Web site will be a complete success. Thanks again to the city and Leon Worden for their hard work.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting process, the Newhall Redevelopment Committee meets on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, in the Century Conference Room. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Stick To Fresh Fruit.

Summer is prime time at the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Market, held every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on San Fernando Road between 5th and 6th Streets. Shopping at the Farmers' Market means you get the best and freshest produce available, while supporting small local farmers.

This California Certified Farmers' Market is in full swing with stone fruit back in season. The name "stone fruit" refers to their large seeds and includes fruits such as peaches, plums, cherries, apricots and pluots.

Explore the delicious varieties the farmers create that are only available in small quantities direct from the growers. Enjoy the opportunity to "taste test" these delicious fruits and talk with the enthusiastic farmers who offer cooking tips and share their connection to the land. There is also a wide variety of traditional vegetables, as well as ethnic specialties, heirloom tomatoes and a unique assortment of squash.

Certified Farmers' Markets are instrumental in preserving the diversity of California agriculture by providing marketing outlets for the small acreage growers of heirloom, culinary, ethnic, organic and other specialty crops not usually grown on the large scale.

Currently At The Market:

- ◆ Vine & tree-ripened fruits and vegetables
- ◆ Fresh cut flowers
- ◆ Plain and candied nuts, seeds and roasted peanuts
- ◆ Artisan breads and cookies
- ◆ Fresh roasted chicken, potatoes, sweet potatoes and corn
- ◆ Homemade tamales
- ◆ Handmade candy
- ◆ Live Peruvian music
- ◆ Free children's arts and crafts projects
- ◆ Friendly farmers



Farmers can afford to wait until the produce is tree-ripened before picking and bringing it to the market. Commercial produce brokers can't handle ripe produce because it won't withstand the stress and storage as it passes through commercial marketing channels. Once you experience the full, intense flavor of vine-ripened fruits and vegetables, you'll be hooked.

Make it a family tradition to get outside and enjoy Thursday afternoon and evenings at the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Market every Thursday during summer. You'll find convenient adjacent parking.

Fourth Of July Event Calendar.

◆ Before The Parade:

6:30 a.m. Equestrian staging begins at Heritage Junction (Hart Park).

7 a.m. Newhall Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast in the Roger Dunn Golf parking lot on San Fernando Road betw. 5th and 6th streets.

7 a.m. Parade registration opens (see scvparade.com for details).

8 a.m. Street closures scheduled to take place (see scvparade.com for details).

8:30 a.m. Equestrian judging at Heritage Junction (Hart Park).

8:30 a.m. Santa Clarita Runners' Kids Run starting and ending at Newhall Park (see scrnners.org for details).

9 a.m. Santa Clarita Runners' 5-K Run-Walk starting and ending at Newhall Park (see scrnners.org for details).

9:30 a.m. Parade registration closes.

9:45 a.m. Parade begins.

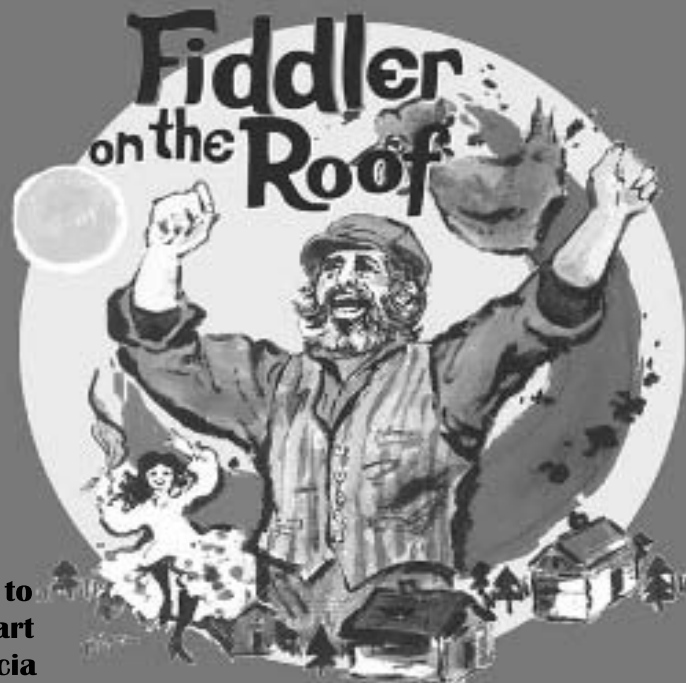
◆ After The Parade:

Noon-2 p.m. Free concert in Newhall Park with L.A. Carpool.

Approx. 9:15 p.m. City of Santa Clarita Fireworks Display at Westfield Valencia Town Center, to be launched from the roof of the parking lot above Buca del Beppo restaurant (see santa-clarita.com/fourth for details).

Also: Fireworks over Magic Mountain, Stevenson Ranch and Castaic Lake.

The Canyon Theatre Guild
presents one of the greatest musicals of all time...



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you in part
by Valencia
Acura

Performances will be at the
College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center
Friday and Saturday Evenings at 8pm: July 29 - Aug 19
Saturday Matinees at 2pm: Aug 12 and Aug 19
Sunday Matinees at 2pm: July 30, Aug 6, Aug 13, Aug 20
Tickets: \$10-\$24, Group Discounts, Half price for season ticket holders!
Tickets now on sale 799-2702

Recollecting My Neighbor, Tex.

By **PATTI RASMUSSEN**
Gazette Correspondent.

**Charlie Was In
Cowboy Heaven When
Country-Western Star
Moved To Maple Street.**

**NOW BOTH WILLIAMS AND
HIS HOUSE ARE GONE.**

We were just newlyweds when we moved into our home on Maple Street. The three-bedroom, two-bath, twenty-year-old home was perfect for my fixer-upper husband, and we were happy to settle in and start a family.

Homes in Happy Valley were built on big lots. Many of our neighbors had been there for years. They all seemed much older than us, but we got to know our neighbors quickly as they were all friendly and anxious to welcome the new kids on the block.

Across the street, my husband Charlie met two guys with whom he would spend a lot of time. One was Marty Fischer, a retiree who worked on old cars — a passion of my husband. Marty had a restored Pierce Arrow that was his pride and joy.



LEFT: TEX WILLIAMS' GRAVELLY VOICE WAS SCARY TO LITTLE TAYLOR RASMUSSEN. RIGHT: THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA GRANTED A "REMODELING" PERMIT TO THE CURRENT OWNERS OF THE WILLIAMS HOME AT 23416 MAPLE STREET, NOT KNOWING THEY WOULD REMODEL IT TO THE FOUNDATION.



Next door to Marty was a family we would grow very close to: Tex and Dallas Williams and their daughter, Sandi, who was just a few years younger than me.

Tex and Dallas moved into their Newhall home when their house in Bel Air burned down. It had quite the 1960s "Rat Pack" kind of charm — low roof, lots of window.

Not being a huge Country Western fan, I hadn't heard

was in cowboy heaven. Many evenings, he would wander over to Williams' home and spend hours listening to stories and have a drink with Tex.

Both Tex and Charlie were Jack Daniels aficionados. There were times I had to call and ask Dallas to send Charlie home. I still remember their phone number to this day.

Our family grew quickly on Maple Street. When our third son was born on Tex's birthday, I remember both Tex and Dallas thinking that "Tex Rasmussen" would be a heck of a name ... we named him Taylor.

We took a photograph of Taylor and Tex on their birthday and Taylor cried the whole time. I think Tex's gravelly voice scared him.

Many memorable moments were spent with this most gracious gentleman. Tex and his band sang at Charlie's thirtieth birthday party that was held in our backyard. We met some great characters at their home, such as Cliffie Stone and Nudie the tailor, who was riding high on the Country Western fashion scene.

Not only did Tex buy Nudie his first sewing machine by selling off his horse and tack; he also placed the first order by outfitting his twelve-piece band. We always knew when Nudie came to visit

because he parked his big, old Cadillac in the middle of the driveway.

Nudie's car wasn't easy to miss. He had these big bull horns attached to the front hood.

We lived across the street from Tex and Dallas for twelve years. My young sons would occasionally wander across the street — it wasn't a busy street then — and Tex would be there to keep an eye on them. When their daughter, Sandi, got married in the backyard, we walked across the street to congratulate the bride.

Then Tex got sick with cancer. It was hard for us to watch this tall, strapping man wither away. As he lay in the hospital in downtown Newhall, Charlie and I would go and visit him. He was always positive and happy to see us.

Shortly after Tex died, we decided we had outgrown our little house and moved just a mile or so away. We always kept in touch with Sandi and her mom until Dallas' death a few years ago.

We were sorry to see Sandi sell the house and move out of state. But we were beside ourselves when we realized the new owners razed the house to its foundation.

I don't know who these new homeowners are, but I

am pretty sure they didn't have a clue as to the history of the man who built it.

Tex Williams owned a honky-tonk on San Fernando Road and has a plaque on the Walk of Western Stars. The walls of that home on Maple Street were once adorned with many gold records. He was a generous entertainer who gave back to the community he called home.

Now that little part of Newhall history is gone.

Sandi once told me her employer, Milt Diamond, who owned the Newhall General Store, used to voice his concerns about the loss of many of the old buildings as the town grew. The General Store is long gone. Now the Tex Williams home is gone, and there are many other historic buildings that need to be identified. Time keeps on ticking.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society has been active for more than thirty years. They are a hard-working bunch of volunteers who give hours to save and archive the history of our community. They are passionate about their mission, and it is time to give them a seat at the table.

Tex was a great neighbor. Let's hope he leaves us not only with a great legacy, but also with a lesson on losing a part of our history — which shouldn't be repeated.



**The Only Real Hardware Store
In The Santa Clarita Valley**

NEWHALL HARDWARE
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661.259.3212

"If We Don't Have It, You Don't Need It."

The Egg Plantation: An Old Town Fixture.

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

Featured On
The Food Network.

The Gazette spotlights a different Old Town Newhall business establishment in each edition. This month the spotlight is on The Egg Plantation, located on Walnut Street in the heart of Old Town.

This Old Town Newhall business first opened its doors more than twenty-five years ago. Then owner, Maurine Anderson, introduced the Egg Plant's original 101-omelet menu. In 1985, the business was taken over by Bettie Travis and Margerie Riberdy, who changed the name to The Egg Plantation and made it renowned as a breakfast locale.

Current owners Simon and Shannon Mee reopened The Egg Plantation in October 2000. Since then, the Mees have obtained a liquor license to service private parties and have added more selections to the menu, such as espresso beverages and "Just for Kids" items.

Simon and Shannon are residents of Santa Clarita. Simon completed his restaurant training in England and moved to Santa Clarita in 1994. He has previously managed a restaurant at the Four Seasons Beverly Hills and a Starbucks before deciding to manage his own restaurant. Simon and Shannon collectively have more than twenty years of restaurant experience.

Weekly, the restaurant uses more than six thousand extra-large, farm-fresh eggs. This fact caught the attention of a producer and scout for The Food Network. A show segment devoted to eggs was filmed at The Egg Plantation and originally aired in 2005,



EVAN THOMASON

SOME OF THE CREW, READY TO SERVE YOU:
(From Left) **RYAN BRAHE, JULIAN AGUERO, TERRY WANKEL, OWNER SIMON MEE, STEPHANIE DUGGAN, AGELITA WEBER.**

generating many phone calls and new business for the establishment. Repeat airings of the show have had viewers traveling from several states and neighboring counties to enjoy the restaurant's cuisine.

The Egg Plantation features the original 101-omelet menu and four of the original chefs. Simon says the servers quiz the chefs to see if they know the ingredients and the order number for all 101 omelets — which they do.

To date, no one has eaten all 101 varieties of omelets the restaurant serves.

Saturday and Sunday are the restaurant's busiest days of the week. The restaurant can seat approximately one hundred twenty people, and on busy days, Simon has used a call-ahead policy to shorten wait times for customers. On the restaurant's busiest days of the year — Mother's Day and Father's Day — The Egg Plantation has been known to give small, personalized gifts to customers.

Simon and Shannon emphasize customer service with their staff of nearly thirty employees. Understanding

the many restaurant options in Santa Clarita, Simon says, "I want our staff and food to 'wow' our customers so they come back again."

The Mees also enjoy the opportunity to interact with customers, whose suggestions have often been added to the restaurant's menu, such as the Nutella crepes.

The Egg Plantation is a family-owned, full-service restaurant serving home-cooked meals. It offers business luncheons, private parties, catered events, wine tastings and delivery.

The Egg Plantation is a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. The store is located at 24415 Walnut Street in Old Town Newhall, phone 661/255-8222. Operating hours are daily from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., closing only on Christmas day.

Menus can be viewed online at eggplantation.com. On the Web site you'll find that customers can dine for free on their birthday with valid identification, and every Tuesday, seniors can dine for twenty-five percent off.

What's Being Done About Graffiti?

By **ADELE MACPHERSON**
Community Services
Superintendent,
City Of Santa Clarita.

DEPUTIES HAVE MADE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED ARRESTS IN PAST YEAR.

Stiffer Fines And Sentences.

The city of Santa Clarita is under siege right now, experiencing a three hundred percent increase in graffiti incidents citywide.

There is no question that graffiti is a blight on the community. In an effort to keep our community clean and safe, the city has taken a "zero tolerance" posture toward graffiti. Through constant effort and vigilance, the city will continue to do whatever is necessary to rid the community of graffiti.

Over the last several months, the city has stepped up its eradication, enforcement and database systems in an effort to ensure that graffiti incidents are reduced in our community; that perpetrators are apprehended; and that graffiti is quickly removed.

Incidents of graffiti have increased dramatically in the Santa Clarita Valley over the last year. In response, the city of Santa Clarita is working closely with the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station's COBRA team (Career Offender Burglary Robbery Assault) and CIT (Community Interaction Team), as well as the district attorney's office and local judges to contain and remove graffiti.

By creating a graffiti removal database, the city is able to identify the number of graffiti incidents; gauge how quickly the graffiti is removed; and track the location, identifiers

and other vital information.

This innovative database serves as an effective tool for the Sheriff's Department to monitor graffiti "hot spots" and subsequently identify and arrest taggers. Over the past year, sheriff's deputies have made a stunning one hundred twenty-five arrests for graffiti vandalism. The typical sentence for a juvenile tagger is probation, forty hours of community service and an order to stay away from gangs.

To better assist the city and the Sheriff's Department in catching graffiti vandals, a specialized surveillance equipment program will also be installed in an unmarked city vehicle. This provides the Sheriff's Department and the city with a system to improve the arrest and conviction rate for graffiti offenses.

At the request of the City Council, the city's "restitution rate" for graffiti vandalism was raised to \$155 per hour. This enables the courts to adjust the fine to reflect the degree of damage caused by tagging.

Additionally, as a result of a meeting between Councilman Frank Ferry, city staff members and the district attorney, the courts recommended that the city create a strong intervention program for first-time youth offenders. This will ultimately result in harsher sentences and require offenders to perform community service locally, instead of in the San Fernando Valley.

The city removes graffiti on public rights-of-way by use of a pressure washer, sandblaster, chemicals, graffiti towels or paint. When graffiti appears on private property, the city's Community Preservation division issues a "Notice of Graffiti," requiring the property owner to remove it within seven days. If the graffiti is not removed after the second

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TELL EVERYBODY WHAT YOU THINK.

E-mail A Letter To The Gazette.
Letters@oldtownnewhall.com

St. Francis Dam: One Family's Ordeal.

By **DAVID DESMOND**
Gazette Correspondent.

DAMKEEPER'S WARNINGS
WENT UNHEEDED.

The Gates Of Hell
Opened Onto A Sleeping
Saugus Population.

CANTIL — Back some eighty-five years ago, a family in Cantil, a small community in the northern Antelope Valley, was celebrating a union. On November 26, 1920, Mr. and Mrs. Cody Miller witnessed the marriage of their daughter, Gladys.

Cody Miller was the station agent at the Southern Pacific Railroad's Cantil station. His wife, Minnie, kept house. Seventeen-year-old Gladys was marrying Tony Harnischfeger, a thirty-three-year-old native of New York and a worker for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

In the following years, Tony and Gladys would have two children, Coder, born in 1921, and Gladys Antoinette, born in 1924. It must have been quite an honor for Cody Miller to hear that they named the boy Coder, a probable derivation of his grandfather's name.



Cottage On Walnut

AN ECLECTIC MIX
OF OLD AND NEW

Colleen Henriques
Sue Neiberger

24417 Walnut Street
Old Town Newhall

661/253-0804

cottageonwalnut@coxglobal.net

The good times for Tony and Gladys didn't last. At some point in late 1926 or 1927 the marriage dissolved. Tony took a transfer to a new dam constructed in Saugus — the St. Francis. He left with his oldest child, Coder. Gladys and her young daughter, Gladys Antoinette, stayed in Cantil with her parents.

While Tony Harnischfeger and son Coder were in Saugus, Tony took up residence with a woman named Leona Johnson. Tony's wife, Gladys, promptly secured an interlocutory decree of divorce.

It was during this time in early 1928 that Tony Harnischfeger, the damkeeper, began telling people that something was seriously wrong with the St. Francis Dam.

Several books and interviews regarding the dam suggest Tony warned many people that the dam might fail, including its architect, William Mulholland.

Tony's cottage sat directly below the dam. He had steps built up a hillside near the cottage in the event of the unthinkable.

On the evening of March 12, 1928, at close to midnight, the dam collapsed and the gates of hell were opened to a sleeping downstream population. Tony Harnischfeger, his son Coder and Leona Johnson were the first of approximately five hundred people to die that evening. The water and debris followed the Santa Clara riverbed all the way to Ventura.

In the years that followed, the legend of Tony Harnischfeger would play a role in the official inquiries and news reports. Tony and Coder's bodies were never found. The body of Leona Johnson, Tony's girlfriend, was the only one of the trio recovered.

Mulholland, the self-trained engineer who brought water to Los Angeles via the Los Angeles Aqueduct, accepted full responsibility for the failure of the St. Francis Dam.



CODY AND MINNIE MILLER (Seen Here In Happier Times, About 1922) LOST THEIR LITTLE GRANDSON IN THE 1928 FLOOD THAT DEMOLISHED SAN FRANCISQUITO CANYON.

He retired in that same year and died a broken man in 1935.

The human side of the disaster took a huge toll on the family of Cody and Minnie Miller. The Mojave Record of March 23, 1928, reported that "all of the people of the Cantil community extend heartfelt sympathy to Mr. & Mrs. Cody Miller and daughter Gladys in their great loss in the St. Francis Dam disaster."

Another heartbreaking entry was noted in the Randsburg Times on April 6, 1928: "Cody Miller returned to Cantil Saturday after a fruitless search for the body of his little grandson who was lost in the San Francisquito Dam disaster."

Minnie Miller and her

daughter Gladys spent a lot of time together in the aftermath of the disaster. One newspaper article noted that the two traveled to Bakersfield to collect insurance money for Tony's surviving child, Gladys Antoinette. The newspaper also mentioned that Minnie Miller had become seriously ill.

It is unclear whether the Miller family received any money from the death of their grandchild (Gladys' son) from the city of Los Angeles. According to accounts in "Man-Made Disaster: The Story of St. Francis Dam" by the late Charles Outland, the city of Los Angeles' legal team was formidable.

A small article in the Mojave Record of September 4, 1929, tells an interesting story. "Mrs. Cody Miller and daughter Gladys and party of friends were here (Mojave) last weekend. While here,

Mrs. Miller received the news of the death of her only brother, George Moom Popham of Chicago. Mr. Popham was a district attorney for eight years and later was of the firm of Dearrow (sic), Popham and Sissman. Mrs. Miller had planned a visit next month. We all extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Miller."

The law firm mentioned in the story was misspelled. In fact, it was the law firm of Clarence Darrow, considered by many legal scholars to be the greatest trial lawyer of the 20th Century.

A question in the legend of Tony Harnischfeger arose. Minnie Miller's grandson was killed as a result of a civil engineering failure. The builder of the St. Francis Dam — the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power — was considered a bully in press accounts of the time. Minnie's brother, George Popham, was a law partner of the greatest trial lawyer in the United States.

Why didn't Clarence Darrow take on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power? This question was answered upon further research. In his book, "Clarence Darrow For The Defense" by Irving Stone (1941), Stone tells of the "Popham" scandal.

George Popham was involved in a scandal in Clarence Darrow's law firm. Darrow hired Popham to handle the firm's criminal work. Popham was still newly hired with the firm when he forged a will for a woman client.

Darrow went into court unaware of the forged will. "The scandal broke over the forged will, and Clarence was sick about it." After Darrow returned from court, Popham told another attorney in the firm to testify on his behalf or he would blow his own brains out.

This message was conveyed to Darrow, who responded, "You go back and tell Popham that's the best thing he can do, but not to do it in the office; he's made enough mess around here." The year was 1922 and it is assumed George Popham was fired.

Minnie Miller, George's
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.

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ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THE FACE OF THE DAM MADE A FITTING TOMBSTONE.

Dam, CONT.

FROM PAGE 6.

sister, would pass away soon after George in 1929. In his last years, Cody Miller was affectionately called the "mayor of Cantil." Bill Pappas, an eighty-year-old Cantil native, remembers Cody.

"He used to tell me he lost family in the St. Francis Dam disaster. Cody was a friendly guy. He had a habit of fixing pancakes for anyone who came to see him at the train station."

Bill's wife listened intently. "He must have been very lonely," she said.

Bill Pappas believes Cody Miller died in the late 1930s.

Don Ray, a journalist for the Los Angeles Daily Journal, is a historian who has spent more than twenty-five years researching the St. Francis Dam. According to Ray, Gladys Miller spent the majority of her life as a street evangelist in downtown Los Angeles. Her daughter, Gladys Antoinette, also known as Little Toni, died in 1969.

Gladys Miller died two years later in 1971. The majority of their life in Los Angeles was spent in poverty.

The tragedy of the Miller family and Tony Harnischfeger underscores the suffering from both a man-made disaster and a broken family.

The definitive book on the St. Francis Dam is Outland's "Man-Made Disaster." It is available from the Arthur H. Clark Company, P.O. Box 14707, Spokane, Washington, 99214. The Internet has some great photos and text on the disaster. Look up "St. Francis Dam" at scvhistory.com for more information.

This story originally appeared in the August 25, 2005, edition of Mojave Desert News and is reprinted by permission.

FREE CONCERT L.A. Carpool



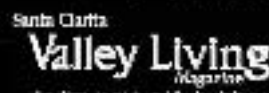
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Passengers Robbed! 'Buffalo Tom' Captured!

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

**Bandit May Have
Had A Screw Loose.**

**But He Got Sunshine
And Three Square Meals.**

When they think about a train robbery, most people conjure up a picture of men on horses chasing a train at top speed, guns drawn and bandanas over their faces. It evokes a picture of the Old West. Generally speaking, I at least tend to think of the "Old West" as the late 1800s.

Here in Santa Clarita, the most famous train heist happened in the 20th Century.

Shall we shift our scene just a little? It's 1929. For the past couple of decades, America has been earning its stripes as a world power. The economy is booming. Al Capone is a gangster kingpin presiding over a famously brutal form of violent crime. Herbert Hoover is the new president.

Now it's November 10, and things are starting to look kind of bleak. The stock market in New York crashed last month. The world outside America is in unrest. It is an unstable time.

In the Santa Clarita Valley, things aren't any better. Just a year ago, the St. Francis Dam collapsed and the area still has not recovered from the disaster. Into this situation enters our anti-hero.

Tom Vernon was just released from jail. He had gotten caught for writing a bad check for some cattle in 1923. He told the rancher it was for a movie shoot, but he just went and sold the cattle for cash.



COURTESY OF CAROLENA REZENDEZ

TOM VERNON, SEEN HERE FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE FROM FOLSOM PRISON IN THE LATE 1950s, CAPSIZED A LOCOMOTIVE BEHIND TODAY'S SAUGUS SPEEDWAY IN 1929 AND ROBBED THE PASSENGERS.

Tom's life, to this point, reads sort of like fiction. That's no coincidence, since a lot of it was fiction.

Tom told everyone his real name was Tom Averill and that he was the son of James Averill and his wife Ellen "Cattle Kate" Watson of Wyoming. He regaled people with the story of how the pair was lynched for cattle rustling in 1889.

That part was actually true, and quite well known. The details are sketchy and depend a lot upon the storyteller, but none seems to include a son named Tom.

Not a problem, Tom says; he was left for dead by the lynching party, then rescued and raised by an Indian named Iron Tail.

Iron Tail was featured in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and was one of the Indians used as a model for the Indian Head nickel.

Tom apparently was somehow attached to Buffalo Bill's show for a while — long



LOREN AYERS / COURTESY OF PAUL R. AYERS

enough to feel he could dub himself "Buffalo Tom" Vernon.

An honest living wasn't for him. This latest stint in Folsom Prison was his fifth time behind bars — all prior to 1929.

Weighing his options, the best plan Tom could think of is far from honest. He goes the rodeo grounds in Saugus (now known as the Saugus Speedway, home of the Swap Meet).

There is some curving track there. Tom pulls up a few railroad spikes and waits for his ship — or in this case, train — to come in.

In the evening, a massive three-barreled, 5000-series steam locomotive comes by, the Owl. The locomotive strains the rails and flops over, effectively stopping the passenger cars, as planned.

What doesn't go as planned is that the passengers start getting out of the train. They're unharmed; the passenger cars have remained upright.

This doesn't suit Tom Vernon. He calmly gets the passengers back into their seats, telling them a relief train has already been dispatched. Once he gets them settled, he proceeds to rob them — then coolly walks over the hill to the town of Saugus. There he hitches a ride with Tom Frith to the Hollywood Hospital, where Tom tells Frith his daughter has been admitted.

Tom then leaves for Wyoming with the \$300 he gleaned in the escape.

Sure enough, when he gets to Wyoming, a similar train robbery happens there, too. After that, Tom goes to Oklahoma where he is apprehended.

What follows is a media circus, as Wyoming and California compete for extradition. In the end, Tom himself, chooses the destination. He denies having anything to do with the Wyoming robbery and freely admits the California job.

Moreover, he declines to fight extradition back to California. Wyoming continues its efforts to acquire him, but in the end, District Attorney Fitts races to Oklahoma on an airplane to bring Vernon to justice in California.

Just when you think the twists and turns are over, well — they aren't. Once back in California, Vernon implicates two other people in the Saugus heist. They hire lawyers, and the charges are finally dropped. Then the authorities start questioning Tom's sanity. Harry Carr, a local columnist, also questions Tom's mental health, proclaiming, "Any man who goes repeatedly into prison is a subject for alienists. Nearly all crooks are subnormal, mentally. An automobile driven by a drunken man is stopped by the police. But an anatomy driven by a crazy brain is cheerfully allowed the right of way."

Harry Carr thinks a mental examination of Tom Vernon would be a waste of time

and money.

Vernon is sent back to Folsom with a life sentence.

And the story is *not* over.

Once he gets to prison, another prisoner declares that Tom wasn't even involved in the robbery.

This idea doesn't ever catch on, since Tom had been identified by the people who were robbed.

Looking into the incident, I have a couple of opinions.

One: It seems to me that Tom Vernon couldn't say two correct sentences in a row. And Two: Tom Vernon was completely disinclined to work for a living — especially when you had to work so hard to get a job at that particular point in history.

His solution to the problems caused by these two evident truths was to go back to prison. In prison, you get three square meals per day and a bed. Given a choice between Wyoming and California, he chose the latter — probably for the weather, more than anything.

By 1957 or '58, Tom must have been given a pardon because he was living with friends in the Sacramento area.

Want to see more details? Find out more from the SCV Historical Society at the Saugus Train Station in Heritage Junction, inside William S. Hart Park, and online at scvhistory.com. Come and visit us or call 661/254-1275.

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Famous Film Historian To Divulge Valley's Movie-Making Secrets.

By **ALAN POLLACK**
Program Chairman,
Santa Clarita Valley
Historical Society.

**Now Home To 'Deadwood,'
Newhall Has Always Been
A Popular Film Setting.**

The Santa Clarita Valley has served as Hollywood's back lot from the earliest days of film making.

On Saturday, August 26, noted film historian Marc Wanamaker will tell everything you ever wanted to know about the history of movie-making in the Santa Clarita Valley. The presentation begins at 2 p.m. at the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's headquarters at Heritage Junction, inside William S. Hart Park. It will be preceded by an ice cream social at 1 p.m., to which the public is also invited.

As early as 1903, Western film producers used the Santa Clarita Valley's rugged topography as a backdrop. Top stars such as Harry Carey Sr., William S. Hart and Hoot Gibson filmed here and called the valley home.

Carey, whose career spanned the silent and talkie eras, introduced acclaimed film director John Ford to the world and starred in Ford's first movie in 1917 — shot partially in Placerita Canyon and at Beale's Cut in Newhall. He built a ranch in San Francisco Canyon (today, the Tesoro Del Valle development) and hired a group of Navajo Indians to run a trading post on the property. The trading post and much of the ranch were swept away in the St. Francis Dam flood of March 12, 1928. Carey and Ford were friends and mentors to John Wayne, who made many films locally.

"Two Gun Bill" Hart was a silent movie actor known for his attention to realism in his Western film. His movie career lasted from 1914 to 1925, ending with the classic "Tumbleweeds." He purchased a ranch house in Newhall in 1921 and later, upon his retirement, built a hilltop mansion where he lived with his sister, Mary Ellen, until his death in 1946.



**CHARLIE CHAPLIN
AT THE SAUGUS
TRAIN STATION IN
'THE PILGRIM' (1923).**

Hart counted among his friends the legendary lawman Wyatt Earp and famed Western artist Charles Russell. In 1940, Hart built and financed the American Theater on Spruce Street in Old Town Newhall — the valley's first. He willed his ranch to Los Angeles County to be used as a public park.

Hart's later movie career was overshadowed by flashier Western stars such as Tom Mix. Mix filmed some of his movies in Newhall and established one of his early "Mixville" movie towns there. His most notable film in Newhall was "Three Jumps Ahead" (1923), in which he purportedly jumped the 90-foot-deep Beale's Cut on Tony the Wonder Horse. Mix's heroic jump was in reality performed by a stunt man using a ramp. Beale's Cut also appeared in the 1939 John Ford-John Wayne classic, "Stagecoach."

Hoot Gibson made movies in the valley, but was also known for his ownership of a rodeo arena in Saugus in the 1930s that later became the Saugus Speedway. A saddle he used in the rodeo in 1934 can be seen in the Historical Society museum at the Saugus Train Station. The Saugus Train Station itself was seen in the 1923 Charlie Chaplin comedy, "The Pilgrim," and in Frank Sinatra's 1954 thriller, "Suddenly."

A number of film studios can be found throughout the SCV, the most famous of which are Melody Ranch and Disney's Golden Oak Ranch, both in Placerita Canyon.

Trem Carr established a

movie ranch for Monogram Pictures in the early 1930s in Placerita Canyon just east of present-day Highway 14 at a location that is today used by the Golden Oak Ranch. Ernie Hickson built a Western movie set for Carr. In 1936, Hickson purchased property in Placerita Canyon to the west of Carr's expiring leasehold and moved his entire set to the new Monogram Ranch.

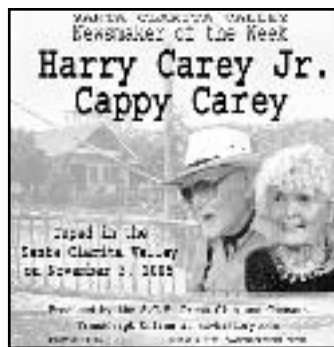
Upon Hickson's death in 1952, Gene Autry purchased the property and Melody Ranch was born. Countless Western movies and television shows (most notably "Gunsmoke") have been filmed at the studio, and many famous actors walked the dusty streets and boardwalks of its Western movie sets. Sadly, Melody Ranch burned to the ground in the raging wildfires of 1962. The ranch was painstakingly resurrected by the Veluzat family in 1991 and is currently the home of the HBO series, "Deadwood," and the annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival.

Marc Wanamaker is a world expert on film history. He is the founder of Bison Archives, a research institution and informational archive dedicated to the history of the motion picture industry. He is a professional consultant on motion picture projects and co-produced "Ticket to Hollywood," a documentary on Hollywood history.

Wanamaker has worked on production and research projects for many film and television studios in Los Angeles and New York. He is the author of several books, including "MGM, When the Lion Roars" and "Hollywood: Then and Now." Wanamaker has worked on or appeared in more than one hundred documentaries and feature films since 1971. He is considered the unofficial historian for Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and West Hollywood.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society is proud to present this dynamic and entertaining speaker. We hope to see our members and the general public at the Saugus Train Station on August 26. Admission is free. For more information call 661/254-1275.

Now On DVD.



HARRY & CAPPY CAREY.

Born in Saugus to early film stars Harry Carey Sr. and Olive Golden, Harry Carey Jr. (Dobe) and his sister, Cappy, discuss their childhood in the Santa Clarita Valley. Youngsters during the St. Francis Dam Disaster, they share their memories of actor William S. Hart, painter Charlie Russell and their school days in Newhall. Dobe also discusses his own film career, wherein he crossed paths with legendary director John Ford and John Wayne.



FRANK ROCK, DAM MAN.

Perched high above Saugus, the St. Francis Dam held 12.5 billion gallons of water to serve a thirsty and growing Los Angeles. But William Mulholland's final engineering feat would last just two years. At three minutes before midnight on March 12, 1928, the great St. Francis collapsed and sent at least 450 people to their deaths. In words and pictures, local dam expert Frank Rock tells the story of America's worst civil engineering failure of the 20th Century.



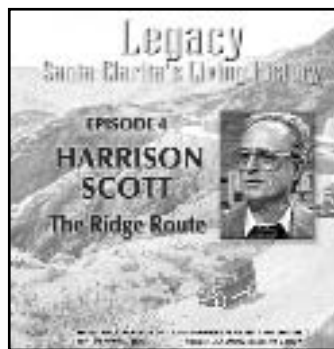
JOHN BOSTON: TIME RANGER.

You know him as "Mr. SCV." Now he's available on DVD. John Boston's "Vignettes of SCV History" is a "must" for anyone who has taken his local history class — and even more so for anyone who hasn't. Join Boston for a wild journey through the Santa Clarita Valley's colorful past as only the Time Ranger can lead you. The episode is jam-packed with historic photos and old movie clips.



HISTORICAL ACTON TOUR.

Even older than the original railroad town of Newhall, Acton boasts plenty of 19th-century buildings that still stand — if you know where to look. Follow the Acton Womens Club for an informative tour that will show you where to find them. Along the way you'll visit with the owners of those old buildings, learn about the community church and trek through the historic Acton Cemetery.



HARRISON SCOTT, RIDGE ROUTE EXPERT.

Before Interstate 5, there was Highway 99. Before Highway 99, there was the Ridge Route, an engineering marvel that wound its way along the mountaintops from Newhall to the San Joaquin Valley. Learn all about it and see photos from the collection of Harrison Scott, the historian who convinced the U.S. government to add the road to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Make checks payable to "SCV Historical Society"

Concert, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

ber band presents a solid wall of sound that will knock your socks off — but you'll want to keep your dancing shoes on when they take the stage at Newhall Park on July 4 at noon, following the annual Independence Day parade.

Out front with lead vocals is the sexy Colombian-Irish diva, Glora T. Behind her is an award-winning collection of talented musicians who, as L.A. Carpool, have hit Number One on the major Internet music sites including MP3.com.

On lead guitar is former Geffen Records artist Frank Garcia, who writes the original melody lines with producer Jack Gold, creator of the L.A. Carpool sound. Rick Ryan, a veteran lyricist who went platinum with a song for Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, writes the words.

Keeping the beat is Drummerworld's Hand Percussionist of the Year, Richie "Gajate" Garcia — who was John Denver's percussionist and now tours with the likes of Sting, Patti LaBelle and Diana Ross. You'll hear him on the occasional movie soundtrack, such as "Maid in Manhattan" with J-Lo and "I-Spy" with Eddie Murphy.

Graduating from the salsa nightclub scene, L.A. Carpool can be heard in feature films and on television, as well. The original Carpool number, "Mi Guajira," plays on a jukebox in the Ray Liotta film, "Narc.". Recent performances include a live KJLA broadcast to ten million bilingual homes and a Telemundo concert in Huntington Park.

Give the Carpool a ride on July 4 at noon. Bring your dancing shoes.

Oh, and did we mention it's free?

It's free to you — thanks to the generous support of the city of Santa Clarita, The Signal, Santa Clarita Valley Living magazine, Santa Clarita Studios, The Newhall Land and Farm-



**ACCLAIMED LATIN AND ROCK
PERCUSSIONIST RICHIE
GAJATE-GARCIA OF L.A. CARPOOL.**

ing Company and Frontier Toyota.

Kudos go to Santa Clarita Mayor Laurene Weste, Signal Publisher Richard Budman and the Santa Clarita Parade Committee members who are organizing things in the park: Phil Lantis (aka the city's Arts and Events administrator) and Lillian Shaw of the Greater SCV Optimist Club, who is handling the vendors.

L.A. Carpool performs from noon to 2 p.m. in Newhall Park on July 4. Food and nonalcoholic beverages will be available in the park. You can bring the family for a picnic — and you don't even need to bring the fixings with you.

Santa Clarita Parade Credits.

The following individuals, organizations and companies are responsible for putting in a hundred zillion hours — and in some cases, more than a few dollars — to bring you the 2006 Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade and the post-parade concert in Newhall Park. Any omissions are unintended.

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Parade, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

left on Lyons Avenue, north on Orchard Village Road and ending at 16th Street near Newhall Park, where L.A. Carpool will perform at noon (see separate story).

This year's theme is "Celebrating the New Frontier." Floats will be judged on their creative interpretation of the theme — and it is open to interpretation! "The New Frontier" might be construed to mean Newhall's history as a Western frontier town. Or it might refer to "space, the final frontier," recognizing Santa Clarita's strong aerospace sector (not to mention that the original "Star Trek" was often filmed here, and today, many NASA/JPL engineers live here).

Or it might be considered an acknowledgment that Old Town Newhall is on the threshold of a new frontier and a new future, as you'll read about elsewhere in this edition of the Gazette.

Newhall certainly is a different place from what it was in 1932, when the local Independence Day Parade became an annual event — missing only a couple of years during World War II, which is why this is the 75th "anniversary" parade and not the 75th "annual" parade.

You might be surprised to know that a few of the companies and organizations that participated in the 1932 event — and even one or two of the participants — are still around. Of course there was The Signal, which reported that the 1932 event was "the greatest and most colorful festivity that has marked the public doings in town for many years."

After all, the previous year, in 1931, "the population of Newhall celebrated the Glorious Fourth by trips in every direction, most of that direction was toward the beach."

Local Historian Art Perkins and Chevrolet dealer Ted Lamkin were determined to set things aright in 1932 with a proper celebration that would become a lasting tradition. They picked an "Old Time" theme (as if 1932 weren't "old time" enough), with a prospector and his family, the 20 Mule Team freight line, cowboys and ranchers — along with what The Signal called "the newer

things that have become a part of our community life."

One of the newer things was local merchant S. David Dill's brand-new 1932 school bus, hailed as "an impressive lesson of the progress both of transportation and the number of pupils." Mrs. Dill picked up kids and drove them to San Fernando High School before Hart opened in the mid-1940s.

Speaking of companies that are still around today, there's no record of whether Newhall Ice Company's ice sculpture survived all the way to the end of the 1932 parade — but with flowers and fruit encased in ice, the entry did win a prize for originality.

After the parade, an estimated two thousand people stayed around for the greased pig-catching and greased pole-climbing contests.

Enthusiasm for Independence Day celebrations ebbed and flowed through the years. Festivities reached a zenith in the late 1940s and early 1950s when Ernie Hickson invited the community to his Western movie ranch in Placerita Canyon, which he temporarily renamed "Slippery Gulch" for the event. (Today it's known as Melody Ranch.) Hickson issued tokens that were good for drinks, games and entertainment, and Signal Publisher Fred Trueblood Sr. printed up some souvenir copies of a Western-flavored tabloid called "The Slippery Gulch Gazette" (no relation to what you're reading now, although admittedly there may be some similarities).

Hickson died in 1952, which may explain why the Newhall Old West Association, which ran the celebration, started to have difficulty finding someone willing to organize it. The parade almost didn't happen in 1955 — but "almost" is the key word. Perkins, Trueblood and a dozen of their friends and family members paraded through Newhall to keep the tradition alive.

Things slowly picked up in the 1960s and hit another zenith with the American Bicentennial in 1976. Thousands of people took to the streets of Newhall to watch more than two hundred entries go by in a parade chaired by Bill Berger and former Mayor Jo Anne Darcy. (Darcy wasn't yet mayor; there was no city of Santa Clarita then.) Celebrities in Newhall's 1976 parade in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.

Fourth Of July Parade Marshals.



GRAND MARSHAL: MORGAN WOODWARD.

A familiar face to Western fans as well as those of the long-running television show, "Dallas," Morgan Woodward has been seen more than two-hundred fifty times on various TV shows and feature films. His more memorable roles include Punk Anderson on "Dallas," Boone Walton on "The Waltons" and Shotgun Gibbs on "Wyatt Earp." He has the distinction of making more guest appearances on "Gunsmoke" — nineteen — and "Wagon Train" — eleven — than any other actor. Film fans will remember him as Boss Godfrey, the man with no eyes from the movie "Cool Hand Luke" (seen here). Woodward was honored in 1998 with both a Golden Lariat Award from the National Western Film Festival and a Golden Boot from the Motion Picture and Television Foundation. He was given a saddle on Santa Clarita's own Walk of Western Stars in 1990. His hobby is restoring and flying antique airplanes.

DIVISION MARSHAL: ANDREW PRINE.

Andrew Prine is a familiar face around the Western world, starring as Andy Guthrie in "The Wide Country" and making several guest appearances in television shows such as "Gunsmoke," "Wagon Train," "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," "V" and "Six Feet Under." He started his film career alongside Anne Bancroft in "The Miracle Worker" and would go on to appear in more than thirty films including "Gettysburg," "The Avenging Angel," "Chisum," "Bandolero," "Texas Across the River" and "This Savage Land." He continues to work in theater, appearing at the Ahmanson in "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "The Caine Mutiny." A two-time winner of the Dramalogue Critics Award for Best Actor, Prine was inducted this year into Santa Clarita's Walk of Western Stars.



LYLES.

DIVISION MARSHAL: "DEADWOOD" FEATURING A.C. LYLES AND BREE SEANNA WALL.

"Deadwood ... 1876, South Dakota: In an age of plunder and greed, the richest gold strike in American history draws out a throng of restless misfits to an outlaw settlement where everything and everyone has a price..."

Producer A.C. Lyles, child actress Bree Wall and several extras from the Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning show — filmed at Melody Ranch and airing Sunday nights on HBO — make their parade debut this year.

A.C. Lyles is a consulting producer of the show and was an associate producer of "Rawhide," another notable Western often shot in our valley. He's been working for Paramount Pictures for nearly *eighty* years, starting out in the mail room and being named head of the publicity department at age nineteen. He's been given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and he received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1988.

Bree Wall is featured in each episode as Sophia Metz. "Deadwood" is Bree's first acting experience. When she's not among the wild characters who make up the gold rush South Dakota town, she's a fourth-grader in Riverside who loves school, horses and soccer. Blond-haired and blue-eyed, she is of Scandinavian descent and has two sisters and a brother.



WALL.



DIVISION MARSHAL: DONNA MARTELL.

Donna Martell made her screen debut in the 1947 Republic film, "Apache Rose," with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Eventually she signed with Universal, where she appeared in "Meet the Killers" with Abbot and Costello and Boris Karloff. Among her many credits in a leading role: "Ten Wanted Men" opposite Randolph Scott, "Kim" with Errol Flynn, "The Hills of Utah" with Gene Autry, "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" with William Holden. She has made dozens of guest appearances in Westerns such as "Bat Masterson," "Cheyenne," "Bonanza" and the popular "77 Sunset Strip" with Efrem Zimbalist Jr. She was named a Sweetheart of the West at the Golden Boot Awards by the Motion Picture Television Foundation.

DIVISION MARSHAL: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AUCTION WINNER.

Each year the Santa Clarita Parade Committee donates a Division Marshal position to the SCV Boys and Girls Club's annual benefit auction. Auction proceeds pay operating expenses for the club, which serves youngsters age seven through seventeen. This year's winning bidder is Lyn Fairly.

Tradition, CONT.

FROM PAGE 11.

cluded sportscaster Gil Stratton and actress La Wanda Page, who played Aunt Esther on TV's "Sanford and Son."

What can people expect to see this year? Well, along with 25,000 other spectators, you can expect to see a giant display of patriotism and a huge slice of today's Santa Clarita Valley.

There will be kids and military veterans — and more kids. There will be moms and dads and dogs and horses. There will be jeeps and church groups and old cars and American flags and lavishly decorated floats. There will be Republicans and Democrats and environmentalists and politicians. There will be TV celebrities and local business owners who want to catch your attention.

And there will be a few surprises that we don't want to spoil.

Plan to come out early and make a day of it. The Newhall Rotary Club starts flipping the flapjacks at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of Roger Dunn Golf. Work off your pancake breakfast in the 5-K Run at 9 a.m. at Newhall Park, hosted by Santa Clarita Runners (with a Kiddie Run at 8:30 a.m.).

Stake out your place along the parade route in time for the starting gun at 9:45 a.m. — and arrive in time to beat those 25,000 other people to a parking space. Look for one of the seven speaker systems along the parade route and situate yourself nearby if you want to hear an official parade announcer tell you what you're seeing as it passes by.

And don't forget to follow the final parade float over to Newhall Park, where you're in for a free concert that you won't want to miss. Food and beverages will be available, so you can plan a picnic in the park without stopping home first to grab your picnic basket.

The concert runs from noon to 2 p.m., so there's plen-



Top: Detail From The Cover Of Fred Trueblood Sr.'s "Slippery Gulch Gazette" Of July 4, 1952. (Thanks To Fred Trueblood III For Sharing.)

Above: Ernie Hickson Issued Tokens That Were Good For Grub And Other Stuff At His Movie Ranch On July 4 From 1949 To 1951.

ty of time for an afternoon nap before the fireworks at night. Look for them to start a little after 9 p.m. in the skies above the Westfield Valencia Town Center, Stevenson Ranch, Six Flags Magic Mountain and Castaic Lake.

The 2006 Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade is brought to you by a team of volunteers known collectively as the Santa Clarita Parade Committee.



THIS IS THE 1955 FOURTH OF JULY PARADE — ALL OF IT, MINUS THE PHOTOGRAPHER, RICHARD "GUS" TRUEBLOOD.

There are far too many standouts to mention here — from Duane Harte who gathers up the cars for the dignitaries to Carol Rock who writes the script to Lillian Shaw and Lisa Wykoff who register the entries to Alan Wykoff who "launches" them in the parade to Bob Dixon who closes the streets to Deputy Artie Thompson who organizes the security to Ron Rollins who runs the radios to Jim Stone who provides the sound systems to

Chuck Willett who carts equipment around to Richard Budman who hosts the committee meetings to Phil Scorza who tapes the parade for TV to Phil Lantis who irons everything out to Pauline Harte who decorates VIP cars to Teresa Todd who helps with publicity to Connie Worden-Roberts who organizes the announcers to Mayor Laurene Weste who organizes the judges — and dozens of hard-working volunteers in between. So we won't

name names. But Julie Ream of Saugus deserves a round of applause for lining up all of our TV Western celebrities.

Direct costs are covered by parade entry fees and donations. Indirect costs (city staff time to close the streets and sheriff's deputies for crowd control) are graciously covered by the city of Santa Clarita.

Have a fun and safe Fourth of July. We'll see you out there on the streets of Old Town Newhall.

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Chamber Reaches Out To Hispanic Businesses.

By **LARRY MANKIN**
President,
Santa Clarita Valley
Chamber Of Commerce.

Committee's First Expo
Is A Success.

Group Will Hold Networking
Mixers And Mentor
High-School Students.

The Hispanic Business Committee was formed in January 2004 as part of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. The organizational group created a mission statement that reads, "It is the mission of the Hispanic Business Committee to aggressively represent and promote Hispanic business in the Santa Clarita Valley through leadership, advocacy and member services."

"Our committee has a number of goals that are important to our constituency," said Dora Zavala, the committee chair for 2006. "We feel it is important to be the voice of business for one of the fastest growing business sectors in the Santa Clarita Valley — the Hispanic-owned business. We work together as a group in promoting the diversity and richness of our Hispanic culture."

"We also hope to provide a venue for future leaders of this community by continuing to invest in our local youth," she said. "Our success is derived from the support of the chamber, the collaboration of the city, the vitality of the community and the talent of our committee."

The Hispanic Business Committee (HBC) has created an aggressive program of work over the first two years of its existence. The program is built around networking, mentoring, education and community involvement.

The full committee now has more than ninety registered members. The HBC meets on the third Thursday of every month at the SCV Chamber



Helping Stage The Hispanic Business Committee's Successful Expo At The Newhall Community Center In May Were (From Left): Nora Hutton, Dr. Monica Carbajal-Alatorre, Dora Zavala, Marisela Handley, Celia Gallardo, mariachi band members and Jeff Lui.



office. Committee meetings are open to any resident of Los Angeles County.

The HBC recently held its inaugural Hispanic Business Expo at the new Community Center in Old Town Newhall. The event, chaired by Celia Gallardo, was considered by all who attended to be major success. Nearly twelve hundred persons participated in the day-long business show.

The Expo, along with the annual HBC Gala scheduled for September 8, raises funds for the committee to distribute as scholarships to needy graduating Hispanic high school students. The Gala is chaired by Kathy Sturkey.

Two additional programs initiated by the HBC are a monthly mixer and a mentoring program for at-risk high school students. The monthly mixer will draw sixty to eighty persons and is held at a

participating chamber-member restaurant. The mixers are held the first week of each month and are chaired by Fernando Lauchu.

The mentoring program, chaired by Monica Alatorre, is designed to provide a business mentor for students attending Bowman High School. Members of the group will meet with high school students each week over a five-week period. The mentors provide guidance and support to these students while promoting the importance of continuing their education.

"I have personally attended the HBC monthly meeting," said Chris Fall, 2006 chairman of the chamber's board of directors, "and I am amazed at the passion and commitment of this committee. The committee allows the seventeen hundred members of our chamber to welcome new Hispanic businesses that may or may not have been willing to engage the chamber."

"I believe in strength in numbers," he said, "and the HBC continues to bring into the chamber new members with their advocacy programs and outreach."

Anyone interested in joining the Hispanic Business Committee may call the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce at 661/702-6977.

Especially For Seniors.



SIGN UP NOW FOR AQUA AEROBICS.

Looking for an exercise regimen that's easy to follow and leaves you feeling stronger, healthier and happier? Try working out in water. All summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Linda Bennett, a board-certified ACE fitness instructor and the SCV Senior Center's fitness director, will hold an Aqua Fitness session at the Bouquet Canyon Seniors facility, 26705 Bouquet Canyon Road. Students age eighteen and older are welcome and are asked to bring a towel, aqua shoes, sunscreen, and bottled water. The cost is \$5 per class or \$35 per month for those over sixty, and \$6 (\$45) for those under sixty. Sign-ups will be taken through August 1 and classes run through October. For information call Linda at 661/993-3969 or the Senior Center at 661/259-9444.

SENIOR CENTER SCHEDULES SUMMER DANCES.

Want to flex your dancing muscles on the best hardwood floor in town? Then the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center is the place for you. Couples and singles age eighteen and older are invited to attend classes taught by Barbara Wright on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and to partake in the Senior Center's summer dance series. On July 28, the theme will be "Rock This Town," and August 25 will bring "Hot Nights, Cool Tunes." For information call 661/259-9444.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

The Visually Impaired Assistance Services Department of the SCV Senior Center conducts a bimonthly support group for individuals age eighteen and older with sight impairments. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays at 1 p.m. in room A3. For information call John Taylor at 661/259-9444, extension 125.

Graffiti, CONT.

FROM PAGE 5.

notice, the property owner is issued a \$100 citation.

The city and the Sheriff's Department also offer a training program for volunteers on graffiti removal; ongoing "Teens Against Graffiti" community service projects; a \$500 monetary reward program for leads that result in the arrest and conviction of a graffiti vandal; and Spanish-speaking options on the city's 25-CLEAN hotline.

Most recently, in an effort to stay on top of graffiti and be

even more responsive, the city has hired a full-time graffiti coordinator, Ryan Wasson.

Wasson is focusing on graffiti removal, organizing school outreach events to create incentive programs and identify taggers, arranging volunteer training, and providing support for businesses and homeowners in the community in their graffiti removal efforts.

The City has also added two part-time staffers to assist Wasson with graffiti removal, in response to the continued increases.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, the rewards program, or to report graffiti, call 661/25-CLEAN.

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FINANCING
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Civil War Hero Honored.

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

Statue Memorializes
Youngest Congressional
Medal Of Honor Recipient.

Local Sculptor Blends
Art With History.

Memorial Day weekend brought the unveiling of a statue honoring "Willie the Drummer Boy" at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Old Town Newhall, which is dedicated to all U.S. military personnel, past and present.

The statue serves as a symbol of honor for all of America's veterans. Willie's story reminds us that not all recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were men — at least not in age.

Boys under sixteen served on both sides during the Civil War, often playing drum, fife or bugle and leading the charge. When Willie Johnston's father enlisted with the Union Army, young Willie, born in Vermont in 1850, begged to go with him. Willie joined Company D, Third Vermont Volunteer Infantry as a Musician on December 11, 1861, and saw his first action at Lee's Mills, Virginia, on April 16, 1862.

Next came the "Seven Days" battle and the Peninsula Campaign outside Richmond, Virginia, from June 25 to July 1, 1862. On retreat, many strong soldiers threw away their equipment to lighten their load — but not young Willie. He held onto his drum and carried it safely to Harrison's Landing. The only boy to do so, Willie had the honor of drumming for the division parade.

The accolades kept coming. The division commander reported Willie's bravery to the War Department. Somehow President Lincoln learned of it and recommended Willie for a Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. On September 16, 1863, War Secretary Edwin M. Stanton personally presented the medal to thirteen-year-old Willie for an act the youngster performed at age twelve.



EDDIE SADIWA

Willie Johnston was only the seventh person to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor and remains the youngest person ever to earn it.

Stanton stated that Willie deserved the award "for exemplifying the spirit of all our soldiers, and for serving your country so well. ... May all our citizens demonstrate the devotion shown by this young man."

Stanton's words exemplify the spirit of the Santa Clarita Veterans Historical Plaza, and Willie Johnston, the drummer boy, is a wonderful symbol of that spirit.

The five-foot tall bronze is the work of local artist Mark Henn. Mark's interest in history and art grew with him in his native state of Ohio. "I remember reenacting the Battle of Gettysburg in my backyard," Mark recalled. Art, however, remained his first love, leading him to California to fulfill a childhood dream of working for the Walt Disney Company. Twenty-three years later, Mark still works for the Mouse.

Mark didn't neglect his passion for American history. For ten years he pursued his interest by becoming a Civil War reenactor. The highlight was his participation in the 125th anniversary Battle of Gettysburg reenactment in 1988.

These days, Mark has stowed his uniform and is blending his passions for art and history to create works in bronze. Largely self-taught, Mark has taken inspiration

Footnote.

California was officially neutral during the war but tended to side with the South. Within Los Angeles County, Abraham Lincoln lost the presidential election in both 1860 and 1864.



EDDIE SADIWA

from artists such as Remington, Russell, Daniel Chester French and Grant Speed.

In 2001, Mark received a commission from the Inventing Flight Committee to sculpt Wilbur and Orville Wright. His monument, unveiled in summer 2003 during the hundredth anniversary of the Wright Brothers' flight, is located at Legacy Plaza on Deeds Point.

Several organizations and individuals contributed to making the "Willie" statue a reality. The Veterans Memorial Committee raised funds through the sales of bricks, tiles, pins and bumper stickers, and the group partnered with Wayne and Marilyn Hackett, who produced a play that raised money for the project. Their love story with music and dance, titled "Wartime Romance," was produced June 2 through 4 at the College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center. The play tells the story of Marilyn's father, Captain Tom Johnson, and his romance of his future bride, the late Margaret Johnson, through letters during World War II.

Marilyn was inspired to tell their story when she discovered her father's letters in the attic of their home. The production was created to honor the veterans of the Santa Clarita Valley and to raise additional funds for the Willie Johnston statue.

If you have not visited the Santa Clarita Veterans Historical Plaza recently, stop by and visit Willie. The plaza is located at the intersection of Newhall Avenue, Market and Walnut Street in Old Town Newhall.

Murals To Decorate Walls Of Old Town.

By **MICHAEL MARKS**
Arts and Events Supervisor,
City Of Santa Clarita.

Bid Package To Be Sent
To Interested Artists.

The city of Santa Clarita Arts and Events Office is developing a mural program for Old Town Newhall.

This unique part of the city features an art gallery operated by the Santa Clarita Artists Association and two theaters: the Repertory East Playhouse and Canyon Theatre Playhouse. The area comprises the Newhall Arts and Theatre District.

To artistically enhance the environment of this downtown location, the city of Santa Clarita will implement a mural program with a goal of completing one mural per year. City staff members have identified several locations for future murals and have selected a prime location for the first mural.

The first location is the north facing wall of El Trocadero Steak House at 24274 San Fernando Road. This location was selected due to its low UV exposure, high-profile location at Market Street and San Fernando Road, excellent arched wall motif, wall con-

dition, and the history of almost zero graffiti vandalism.

Property owner Frank Maga and restaurant owner Raul Bojorquez met with city staff members to develop ideas for the mural's theme. Artists will have a choice of two different themes upon which to base their artwork. One theme will be the Estancia de San Francisco Javier, the mission outpost was built at Castaic Junction in 1804. The second theme will center around the *vaquero* — the California cowboy of Spanish and Mexican days.

A "request for qualifications" will be advertised to artists to submit proposals for the mural project and will be reviewed by Maga, Bojorquez and the board of directors of Old Town Newhall Association, with final selection by the Santa Clarita Arts Advisory Committee.

The Old Town Newhall Mural Project will be advertised shortly. The selected artist will be requested to complete the mural by the end of June 2007.

Any property owner interested in participating in future murals in Old Town Newhall, or artists who would like to receive the request for qualifications, should contact the city of Santa Clarita's Arts and Events Office at 661/286-4078, or by e-mail at mmarks@santaclarita.com.



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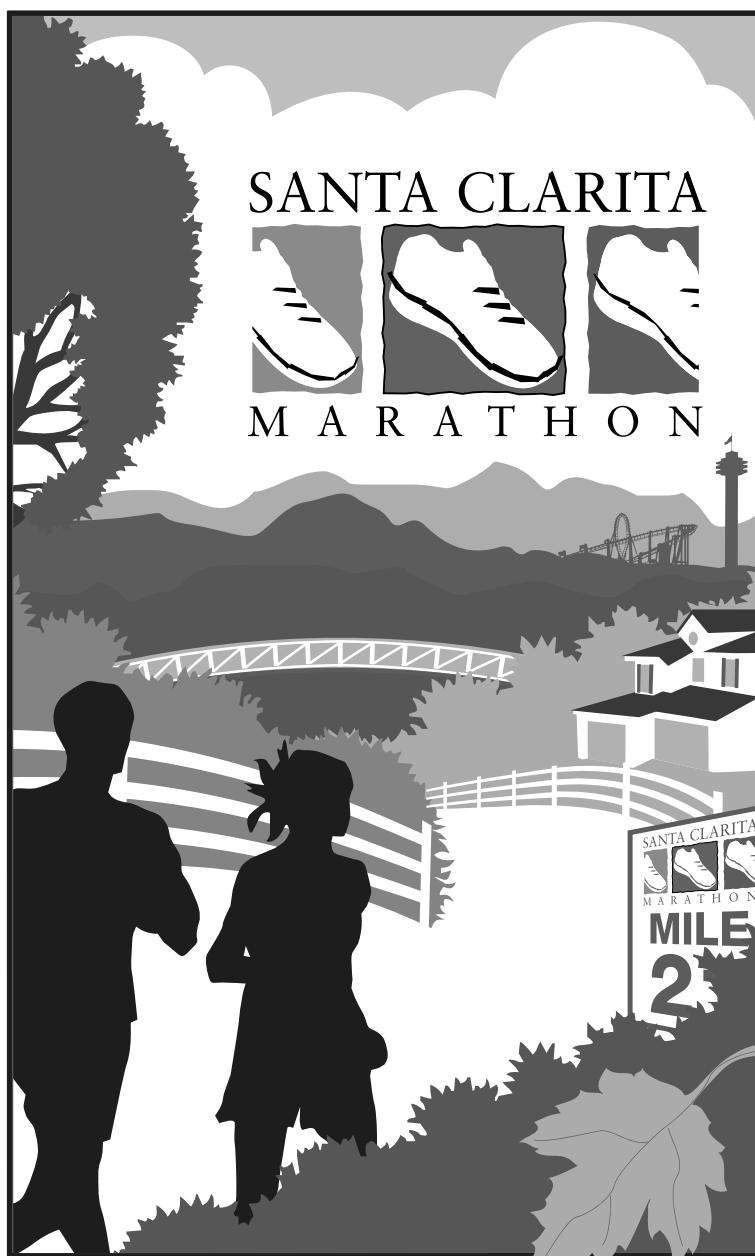
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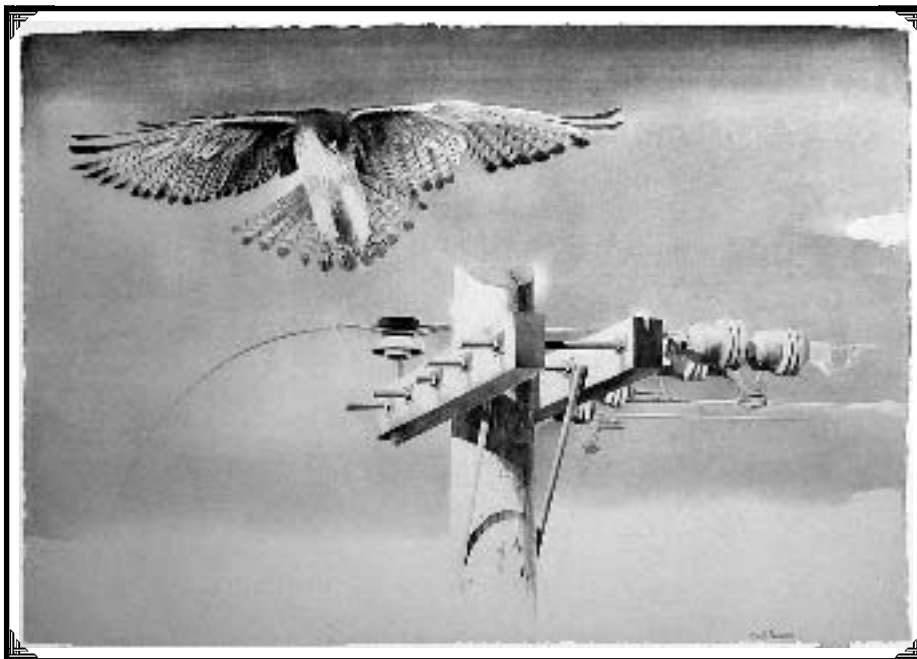
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Art In Full Bloom.

News From The Santa Clarita Artists' Association.

Opportunity To Win Signed Print By Noted Watercolorist.

How would you like to own an original print from a nationally recognized watercolorist for as little as \$2? Here's your chance. The Santa Clarita Artists' Association has received a donation of a work titled "Red Tailed Hawk" (seen above) by Bill H. Armstrong and will raffle it off to raise funds for the association's Art Gallery at 22614 8th Street.

The signed print, valued at \$250 (wholesale), comes to the association through Armstrong's son, Cort. Raffle tickets are available during the gallery's operating hours, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until the end of July. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

A retired art professor from the University of Missouri in Springfield, Bill H. Armstrong has been painting for more than fifty years. His paintings hang in many museums and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. Armstrong is recognized by the American Watercolor Society as one of the outstanding watercolorists in the nation.

The public is invited to visit the gallery and view the work of association members. For information call 661/222-7328.

Members of the Santa Clarita Artists' Association are displaying their work at several locations around town:

◆ Artistic Smiles Dental Office.

24155 Magic Mountain Parkway.
Ongoing display; two major exhibits in the dental office have featured works by more than 40 participating artists. The public is invited to visit.

◆ Java Dave's Coffee Shop.

22876 Copper Hill Drive, Saugus.
Ongoing display; have a cup of coffee in this new shop and enjoy many original pieces of art.

◆ Senior Center Wine Auction.

At Saugus Speedway, August 19.
Wine auction sponsor All Corked Up! has invited association members to display their art under ten canopies at the event, which benefits the Santa Clarita Valley Committee on Aging. Ten artists will be selected to participate; applications are available at Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 W. Valencia Boulevard, Room 120 (ask for Janet Zaldua).

◆ SCAA Art Gallery.

22614 8th Street, Old Town Newhall.
The gallery is open every Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This month's featured artist is Billy Davis. A Miniature Show is planned for August. Stop by and learn how to become a member — and purchase your raffle tickets! Call 661/222-7328 or visit santaclaritaartists.org on the Internet.

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'Fiddler' Returns And Its Antithesis Debuts.

COMING SOON From The Canyon Theatre Guild.

The Canyon Theatre Guild is once again producing a summer musical at the Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons. This year's offering is one of Broadway's best-loved musicals, "Fiddler on the Roof." Sharing directing duties once again — following their success with last summer's production of "The Wizard of Oz," are TimBen Boydston and Patti Finley.

In the little village of Anatevka, Tevye, a poor dairyman, tries to instill in his five daughters the traditions of his tight-knit Jewish community in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.

Rich in historical and ethnic detail, "Fiddler On The Roof" has touched audiences around the world with its humor, warmth and honesty. Its universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

The show features a star turn in Tevye, among the most memorable roles in musical theatre, portrayed in this production by Michael Levine. Golde, his wife, is being played by CTG newcomer Mari Miranda, and Tevye's daughters are Heather Thompson as Tzeitel, Jenessa Willett as Hodel, Meghan Walter as Chava, Kaylin Mahoney as Shprintze and Justine Kelly as Bielke.

Leah Kari is Yente, the matchmaker, and Greg Finley plays Lazar Wolf, the butcher. Motel, the tailor, is Sean Goodman; Perchik, the revolutionary student, is Garrett Deagon; and Fyedka, the young Russian, is played by Matthew Lawrence.

The fiddler is being portrayed by Hebert Pabon and Randy Simer is the Russian Constable. Also in the cast are Marlowe Weisman as the rabbi; Brent Denison as Mendel, the rabbi's son; Barry Agin as Mordcha, the innkeeper; Mark Luther as Avram and Darel Roberts as Nachum.

Lisa Weisman is the ghost of Grandma Tzeitel, Rena Bailey-Barrett is the ghost of Fruma Sarah, James Warnock as Yussel the hatmaker, and Carol Rock as Shaindel. Nikki Berra, Mary Blackstock and Marie Samuel are the understudies for Tevye's daughters.

The papas are Michael Davies, Ron Kari, Jon Myl, Darren Norton and Frank Rock. The mamas are Sandie Allaway, Erin McGrath, Margo Caruso, Rosa Ferreira, Tricia Hulet,



MICHAEL LEVINE, SEEN HERE AS TEVYE IN THE CANYON THEATRE GUILD'S 1995 PRODUCTION OF "FIDDLER" AT VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL, REPRISSES HIS AWESOME PERFORMANCE JULY 29 THROUGH AUGUST 20 AT THE COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

Lisa Weisman and Rena Bailey-Barrett. The sons include Jonathan Ewart, Alberto Pabon, Colin Robert, Cameron Simer and Braden Wells. The daughters are played by Jennifer Alexopoulos, Nikki Berra, Mary Blackstock, Sarah Carman, Chloe Quinn Henson, Jenni Mabrie, Kamber Moen, Marianna Pabon, Marie Samuel, Katie Simer, Bethany Sweany, Calliope Weisman and Denim Weisman. The Russians are Erik Klein, Tom Lund, and Bret Kenyon.

Jerome Robbins' original choreography is being recreated by JanMarie Rennels. Tamarah Ashton-Coombs is the musical director. The production will feature a live orchestra playing the celebrated score by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, featuring songs loved the world over: — "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Matchmaker," to name a few. Jeff Hyde is designing the set and Rena Bailey-Barrett is designing the costumes.

"Fiddler On The Roof" is Broadway at its very best, and this production by the Canyon Theatre Guild will be a theatrical experience you won't want to miss. Suitable for the whole family, tickets are now on sale through the CTG box office by calling 661/799-2702. Performances will be at the College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center on Friday and

Saturday evenings from July 29 through August 20 at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. from August 6 through 20, and Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. on August 12 and 19. Ticket prices are \$10 to \$24. Reserve now for best seating.

You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy this latest "Nunsense" incarnation. You don't even have to be Catholic. You just have to be able to laugh — and laugh you will, as the Little Sisters of Hoboken set sail on the USS Golden Delicious "Faiths of all Nations" world cruise.

They hit choppy seas that send the cast of the ship's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" running for the barf bags. Almost everyone on board becomes seasick, including the cast of "Fiddler." Well, all except the actor playing Tevye. The ship's captain suggests that the sisters and Tevye get together and put on a musical revue for the other passengers. The result: "Meshuggah-Nuns!"

"Messugah" means "crazy" in Yiddish, and that's just what an evening with these characters will be. Filled with campy one-liners, sight gags and wordplays, this light-hearted

show will provide an evening of laughter, knowing smiles and more laughter.

The talented Little Sisters of Hoboken include Reverend Mother (Laurie Morgan); Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices (Leslie Berra); Sister Robert Anne (Lori D'Itri); and ditsy Sister Amnesia, aka Sister Mary Paul (Erin Rivlin-Sakata). Howard Liszt is the "actor" who plays Tevye, and he is portrayed by CTG newcomer Joe Langer.

Under the direction of Craig Duswalt, this hilarious production signals the start of the Canyon Theatre Guild's 2006-07 season. It offers an evening of good-natured, wholesome entertainment where hilarity reigns supreme.

"Meshuggah-Nuns!" opens at the Canyon Theatre Guild on July 28, with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. through August 20 and matinees at 2 p.m. on July 30, August 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20. Ticket prices are \$11 to \$17. Call the box office for reservations at 661/799-2702.

The Canyon Theatre Guild is located at 24242 San Fernando Road in Old Town Newhall.

Canyon Theatre Guild proudly presents

The entire cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" is seasick except Tevye...The little sisters of Hoboken come to the rescue as they put on a show together...the hilarious result...

Meshuggah-Nuns!

The ecumenical musical comedy Written by Dan Goggin

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North Newhall Plan Will Need Your Input.

By **JASON MIKAELIAN**
Associate Planner,
City Of Santa Clarita.

**Plan Will Spur Investment
In Underused Area To The
North Of Old Town.**

**Community Workshop
Coming In August.**

Earlier this year, the city of Santa Clarita began process to complete a specific plan for the North Newhall area, which is surrounded by Placerita Canyon to the east, Old Town Newhall to the south, Newhall Creek to the west and Circle J Ranch to the north. It includes two-hundred thirteen acres encompassing forty-five total properties, including the ninety-five acre Casden property.

The ultimate goals of the plan are to provide property



**THE VIEW EAST INTO 'NORTH NEWHALL' FROM
15th STREET, WHICH MIGHT BE EXTENDED.**

and business owners with the tools necessary to entice quality investment, ensure a consistent development pattern with complimentary uses, preserve environmentally sensitive areas and provide a mechanism to construct needed public improvements.

This spring, the city hired the consulting firm of Moule & Polyzoides to complete the plan and environmental impact report, with Casden covering fifty percent of the cost of the plan. The entire process will take approximately eighteen months to complete.

City staff members and the consultant are already busy collecting information on the project area and surrounding neighborhoods.

Community input is vital for the project to be successful. This month, the consultant will be interviewing many community stakeholders including the property and business owners as well as residents within the project area, Placerita Canyon, Circle J Ranch, the Newhall redevelopment area, Old Town Newhall and the west Newhall areas. A "Discovery Workshop" with the community will also be held August 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hart Hall in William S. Hart Park.

In late September, there will be a multi-day intensive charette, with a format similar to the one held for the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. The community will be asked to participate in the charette process. Additional community meetings and other

public meetings will also be held in the fall. Once all the information is gathered, the city and the consultant will begin working to complete the first draft of the North Newhall Specific Plan.

If you would like to participate in the stakeholder interviews, Discovery Workshop or charettes, please contact me or James Chow in the city's Planning Division at 661/255-4330.

Footnote.

Since our last report, the North Newhall planning area has been expanded to include properties west of San Fernando Road from 14th Street on the south to the Wiley-Princessa bridge on the north, and bounded by Newhall Creek on the west. In addition, the project area extends south to include the future Lyons-Dockweiler connection.

Changes, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

Of all the changes that have so rapidly altered the face of the valley over the past forty or so years, Old Town Newhall may have actually seen the

fewest. While entire new communities of sublime residential subdivisions and clean, convenient "shop local" opportunities have spread throughout almost the entire valley — in every conceivable shade of calming "Valencia beige" — Newhall hasn't seen the same level of private investment.

In 1997 the Santa Clarita

Redevelopment Agency designated a redevelopment project area to generate public funds to stimulate new private investment in Old Town Newhall.

With the adoption last November of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, a new course of action was identified to help bring a similar level of positive private investment to the area while maintaining and reinvigorating the "feel" that, for a time, was the very small town of Newhall.

City staff members have been meeting with everyone who will listen and with those who ask about the intent and implementation of the specific plan. Officials meet regularly with land developers who specialize in this type of redevelopment market, and with property owners who wish to take advantage of their positions in the community and the increased development opportunities that the plan's "code" grants to the Old Town alone.

City staff members meet regularly with business owners and organizations in the community to get the message out. Groups such as the Old Town Newhall Association, the Santa Clarita Rotary Club, the SCV Historical Society and the Friends of Hart Park have

sat down with various officials to discuss the efforts that are now underway, and new ones that may help independently.

The city continues to work with a variety of specialists on the "hard" improvements that are necessary to recreate that "Old Town" feel.

Landscape architects Van Atta Associates, Psomas Civil Engineers and the firm of Moule & Polyzoides (the architects and urbanists who authored the specific plan) are making positive progress on the collaboration necessary to create the new "streetscape" environment that will transform San Fernando Road into the new-old "Main Street."

A separate group of traffic engineers will soon begin designing the changes to striping that must be done to shift the majority of the commuter traffic from San Fernando Road to Railroad Avenue. The city hopes to contract for actual, physical changes to the infrastructure of Old Town Newhall later this year.

The original builders of the houses, businesses, train depots and hotels that served people making the arduous land journey from Los Angeles to San Francisco

would not recognize the Newhall of today. The form and function of the current Santa Clarita Valley is the result of change over lengths of time that are difficult for the mind to comprehend, and influenced by factors outside of the Santa Clarita Valley and even California.

The efforts underway to again transform Old Town Newhall will also take time — as well as dedication, vision, investment, sacrifice, flexibility, hard work and probably a lot of luck to realize the goals that have been set.

These changes also will depend on the economy, market forces and many other factors that are too nebulous to explore here.

Eventually, however, if all goes well, the little kids who now play and learn at the new Community Center in Newhall will have to visit scvhistory.com to see photos of what Old Town Newhall "used to look like" before they enjoyed walking the quiet, tree-lined boulevard to shop, drink coffee, eat pastries from the *panaderia*, or exercise away the meal they just enjoyed on a warm, early summer evening — in all they have ever known of the "Old Town" of Newhall.

NORTH NEWHALL DISCOVERY WORKSHOP

**Wednesday, August 2, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Hart Hall – Hart Park**

The City of Santa Clarita invites you to:

Participate in developing the North Newhall Specific Plan for the area north of Downtown Newhall along San Fernando Road.

Who Should Attend:

Newhall area property and business owners and residents.
People interested in participating in the planning process of North Newhall.

For Further Information:
Please call Jason Mikaelian or
James Chow at 661/255-4330.



Self-Made Student Athlete Reaches End Zone.

By **SHELBY JACOBS**
1953 Class President,
Hart High School.

**Kid From Val Verde
Settles Into Retirement.**

**Biggest Struggle Today Is
To Stay Out Of The Way.**

We lived in and around the city of Los Angeles until 1981. I commuted to Rockwell (now Boeing) Rocketdyne Canoga Park and subsequently to Downey and Seal Beach. We relocated our residence to Orange County (Cypress and Anaheim) and still commuted to Downey before making our final move to northern San Diego County a year after my Jan. 31, 1996, retirement.

Ten years into retirement and after a forty-year aerospace career, my wife, Diane, and I live in the suburb of Oceanside near the northeastern city limit — our final planned destination.

For the first time in a lifetime, our decision to relocate was unencumbered by considerations of work, family, kids, and we had the good fortune of networking with a lot of folks to help identify and avoid the many pitfalls of retirement.

During my last ten years working, we were mindful of a number of retirement locations of mutual friends, relatives, co-workers and former schoolmates, and we assessed the many reasons for their choices.

Some moved to less expensive communities or places with lower taxes; some followed their children only to discover that the adult children tend to move for career advancement; others found that they had outgrown their old hometown environments.

It became obvious that most of these were not viable considerations for us; we decided that weather and space were two important factors. Therefore, the moderate temperatures of a coastal climate and population density — less congestion but not too rural — became top priorities in our planning, along with the economics of the whole process.

After a three week vacation in the United Kingdom during the spring of 1996, my



**SHELBY AND DIANE JACOBS ON VACATION
AT MOUNT CHARLESTON, WEST OF LAS VEGAS.**

first year of retirement, we concluded that the standard of living and culture shock, among other factors, made relocation abroad unpalatable.

We made a cursory evaluation of the forty-eight states of the continental United States plus Hawaii and Alaska, and concluded that the coastal regions of Southern California met more of our requirements than any other place on the planet. We focused on the region between San Luis Obispo and Baja California, and found Oceanside quite ideal.

Divorce after retirement was identified as one of the most significant risks of retirement. Among the greatest contributory factors mentioned, other than money and common interests, were space and who runs the household.

The popular belief was “space reduction via downsizing” — move into a smaller house or condominium, thus minimizing the drudgery of maintenance and upkeep, and allowing more time for other, more enjoyable activities.

We were able to make a number of helpful observations during the first year of retirement before we made our final relocation plans.

It became obvious that we had to overcome the fact that wives are unwittingly accustomed to having total access to everything around the house — in part because husbands have not been there for ten to fifteen hours of the day for years, because of work. No

matter how little or how often I chose to use the computer for the short time we shared, it interfered with the presumed “total access” concept.

The perception that I was always on the computer when she needed it amounted to an inadvertent invasion of space and privacy. My prior occasional evening use of a shared computer had a totally different impact when extended to potential “anytime use” after retirement.

Sometimes we still forget to check the house phone to see if it's in use at one of numerous outlets. Listening for a dial tone was a natural habit during our working years; even though the office had private lines, we knew we were in a public place. The fact that Diane may be in another room and I don't see her on the phone doesn't mean it's not in use, and vice versa. Learning to share is sometimes easier said than done.

The reality was that that the smaller the house, the more time I was going to spend getting out of the way when routine chores had to be performed. So, having someplace to be, other than in the way, became an important factor.

We concluded that retiring from managing the office and transferring those skills to household management was not likely to work because most wives had been doing quite well without us while we worked all those years and had little need or tolerance for our interference in how things run.



**AUTHOR'S DAUGHTER
SHELLEY HOLDS HER
DAUGHTER, SHELBY.**

Discovering that downsizing could be detrimental to the long-term success of retirement may be one of the most important things we learned in the process. Hence we established the final relocation criteria: I needed space for my computer, papers and memorabilia, and a separate retreat for Diane's computer, crafts and stuff. This arrangement has worked out quite well, even though I don't manage to keep my space clean and tidy to Diane's standards.

Diane is very active in our local church. She is serving as vice president of the Pastor's Aid Society and was past president of one of the women's auxiliary groups; she actively supports local, district and regional church conventions and enjoys crochet and gardening in her spare time.

Diane plays a major role in the care of her mom and infirm brother, who live in Anaheim. She visits them at least weekly.

I have assisted in our church tutorial program, four of the past five years. I am actively involved with community and city leaders in youth motivation (NAACP, city gang task force, anti-graffiti). I serve on a city commission as well as the Oceanside Unified School District strategic planning committee. I am active in my community planning and development — new homes, freeways, streets; neighborhood watch, city code compliance.

I regularly collaborate with neighbors on home improvement and maintenance projects. I still find time to play bridge, as I have for the past forty years at local clubs, and I

occasionally play in regional and national competitions.

Daughter Shelley lives in Fallbrook with my thirty-one month-old namesake granddaughter, Shelby, and has been a third-grade teacher at a local elementary school for the past seventeen years.

Son Larry is a software developer in Los Angeles. He enjoys golf and model airplane flying, having held the “fastest in the West” record speed for model jets at two hundred twenty-six miles per hour.

Diane and I have come to love northern San Diego County for its coastal climate, proximity to the beach (nine miles), desert and local mountain areas (twenty to fifty miles).

One of the most pleasant problems I have to manage is vacation planning. During my working career at Rockwell-Boeing, I had the privilege of four weeks a year plus two weeks at Christmas to vacation. Having become accustomed to frequent vacations prompted our desire to continue this trend into retirement. We sometimes accumulate excessive vacation and have to scramble to catch up, sometimes gifting our daughter with time to keep from falling behind in our fun getaways.

The serenity of our environment, combined with meaningful engagement in productive community activities, keeps us busy in a positive way, most of the time. Our reasons for getting away are drastically different now; we used to want to get away for change of pace, stress relief or just a change of scenery. Now we can't wait to get back home.

Some of my greatest moments of relaxation involve reading the morning news while having coffee on the patio or reading the mail in my favorite spot under the palm trees in the front yard and appreciating the beauty of the environment.

I am awed by the realization of the humble beginnings from which we began, the barriers we've had to overcome and the opportunities we've been blessed to capitalize on.

Life is not perfect, but most of our needs are met, we are in good health, and for the most part, our expectations have been exceeded.

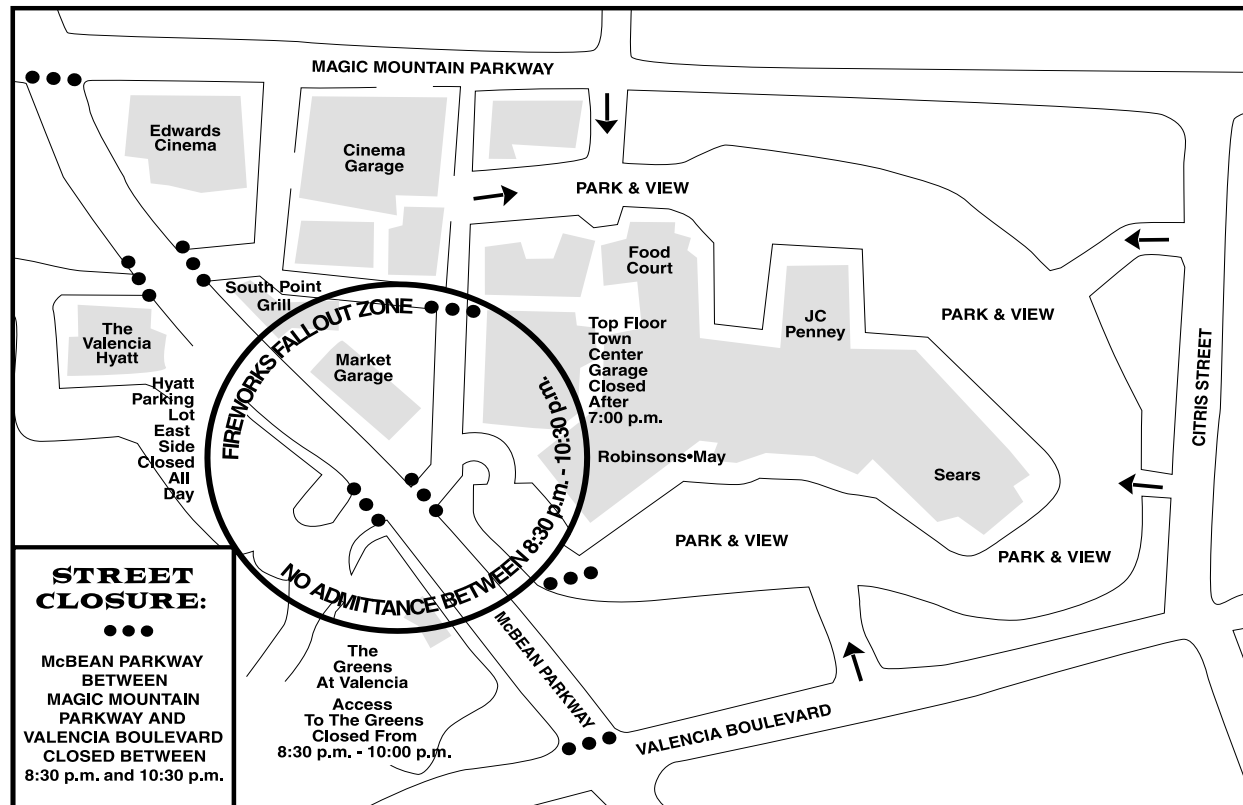


Spirit of America

at the *Westfield*

Valencia Town Center

The City of Santa Clarita invites you to attend a July 4th Fireworks Celebration, starting at 9:15 p.m. Please follow these steps to an exciting July 4th.



Special Viewing:

The Greens at Valencia is featuring an old fashioned 4th of July BBQ and a live band. Bring your blanket for prime viewing from the putting course. Call for Reservations!

The Greens will be open all day but access will be closed from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. between Valencia Boulevard and Magic Mountain Parkway.

Please plan accordingly.

Call 661-222-2900 for information.

Directions:

To avoid road closures enter the Westfield Valencia Town Center from Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia Blvd., and Citrus Ave. entrances.

Select your viewing site:

Just about anywhere at the *Westfield Valencia Town Center*. We suggest the following locations that will have portable restrooms and trash containers.

Parking Area 6K - 6G
Parking Area 6C, 7A - 7E
Parking Area 10K - 10M
Parking Area 2D - 2H
Parking Area 10C - 10G

Listen to the Fireworks Sound Track

Bring a portable radio or listen from your car radio to the fireworks soundtrack broadcast live on KHTS-AM-1220 AM.

Non-viewing Areas:

Please stay out of the FIREWORKS FALL ZONE which will be set-up around the launch site. The area to avoid is McBean Parkway from the Mall Entrance to Town Center Drive, parts of Town Center Drive and the area around the Market Garage.

Keep Santa Clarita Beautiful:

Please keep your viewing location clean.

Street Closure: ●●●

McBean Parkway between Valencia Blvd. and Magic Mountain Parkway will be closed to traffic from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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