



# The Gazette.

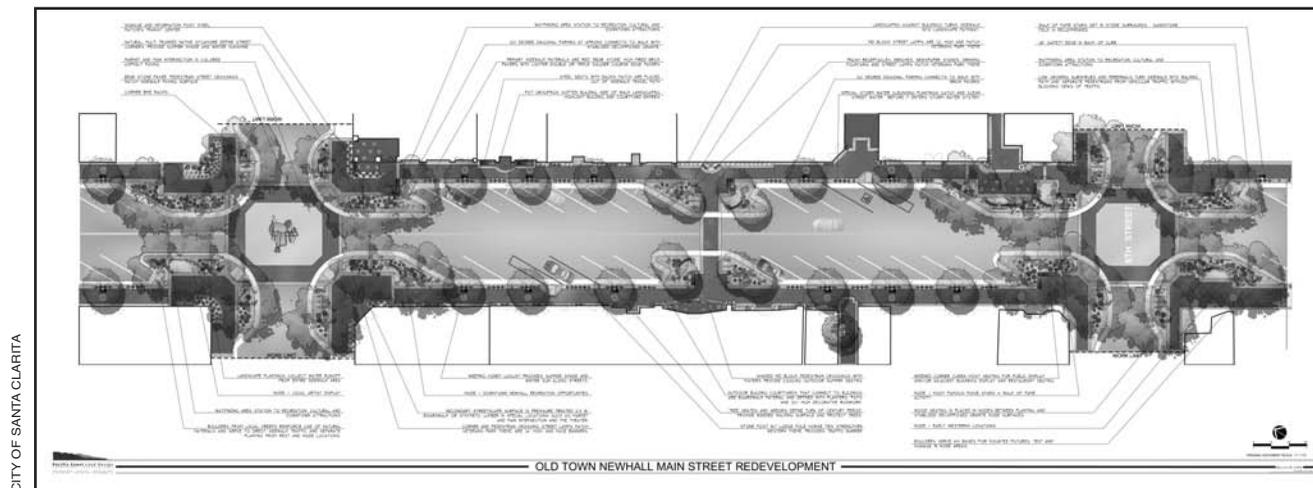
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SUMMER 2008

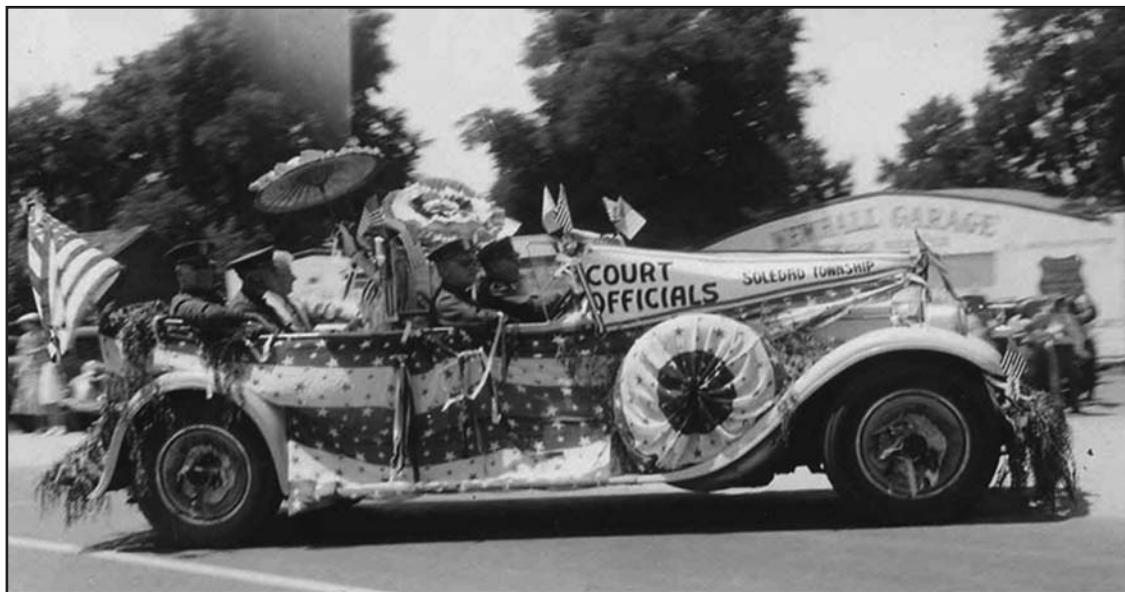
YEAR 14, NUMBER 2

## Streetscape Work To Start.

**NEW STREETSCAPE** – The City of Santa Clarita plans to budget \$2.2 million in the coming fiscal year for storm drains and the first block of new “streetscape” that will expand the pedestrian space with pavers, trees, indigenous plants and boulders, seating, bike racks, historical and directional information, and swales to manage water runoff.



## Mr. SCV To Headline 77th Anniversary Parade.



ALAN POLACKS/HISTORY.COM

**NEWHALL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE BECAME AN "ANNUAL" TRADITION IN 1932, BUT THERE WERE EARLIER PARADES. THIS ENTRY, POSSIBLY FROM THE 1928 PARADE, CARRIED THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND OTHER COURT OFFICIALS FROM THE SOLEDAD TOWNSHIP, AS THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY'S JUDICIAL DISTRICT WAS KNOWN.**

Witness The Sights And Sounds On July 4.

Event Has Stayed The Same,  
More Than It Has Changed.

By **TERESA TODD,**  
SANTA CLARITA PARADE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER.

If you've lived in Santa Clarita for more than a minute, you are sure to know the quirky and humorous writings and quips of a real, modern-day, hometown legend – John Boston. As his snappy license plate boasts, he's “Mr. SCV.” What you may not know is that our very own John Boston will be honored as this year's Grand Marshal in the 77th anniversary edition of the Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade.

Santa Clarita's Fourth of July Parade attracts more than twenty-five thousand spectators cheering three thousand-plus participants



**BOSTON.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.

## Coming Soon: A New Library For Newhall.

By **CHRIS PRICE,**  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

By the time you read this, the City of Santa Clarita should be in contract negotiations with an award-winning architect to

design the new Newhall Library. While plans for the streetscape are being completed, new concepts and ideas will begin to emerge for the replacement of the overtaxed little Newhall Library on 8th Street. So even if you don't see street construction under way or lots of new

buildings going up just yet, that doesn't mean nothing is happening in Old Town Newhall!

One of the key projects identified in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan is the New Newhall Library. To quote directly from the plan:

“This visually prominent, 2-3 story building is organized around a forecourt at the northerly terminus of the Main Street resulting in a distinguished site for the building while providing additional pedestrian activity

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# The Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

## EDITORIAL.

# Redevelopment Bucks Are In The Bank. Now What?

The biggest news in Old Town Newhall isn't anything you can really see, unless you've got your nose in the city's books.

In early June, the redevelopment agency (read: the city) sold its redevelopment bonds to Wells Fargo Brokerage Services LLC. The sale netted the agency \$27.85 million for general redevelopment, and \$8.15 million for housing. (Twenty percent of all redevelopment agency funds must be spent either to improve existing or to build new affordable housing.)

The cash arrived June 12, and it was a long time coming. For the first time since the redevelopment agency was established more than a decade ago, it has its own funds to make changes in Old Town Newhall.

Up to now, all the improvements you've seen – from the subsidized storefronts to the realigned streets – have been accomplished with money the agency has borrowed from the city's general fund, with a few county, state and federal funds thrown in for specific projects such as the Newhall Metrolink Station and certain neighborhood upgrades.

Why did it take so long to bond? Because the agency had to demonstrate a track record of growth before an investment house such as Wells Fargo would take a

gamble on it.

Redevelopment agencies collect "tax increment" funds, which might be easier to understand than it is to write, but I'll put it this way: As property taxes throughout a redevelopment zone rise above a specified baseline – Newhall's baseline was set in the mid-1990s – forty percent of the *increase* in property taxes can be used for redevelopment. That increase is the "increment," and it has been rising steadily.

That's what the agency is bonding against, and what Wells Fargo is banking on: the belief that property values in Newhall, and therefore the total property tax revenues, will continue to climb.

Now the fun begins.

Twenty-eight million, plus eight million for housing, isn't nearly enough to do everything that's called for in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. That's the document that charts all the changes that are destined for our Old Town.

Going in, it was understood that it wouldn't be enough to do it all. It's a \$35 million redevelopment agency with – who knows? Maybe \$50 million to \$100 million in planned improvements. You do the math.

**'Before the redevelopment money was even in the bank, various forces were already lining up to fight over the scraps. That's because three "immediate" projects are on the books that the \$28 million won't fully cover ... Everybody's got his own ideas of what should happen first.'**



**WHAT'S IN A LIBRARY? – Library consultant Linda Demmers conducted numerous stakeholder meetings earlier this year to determine what programs and services the community wants to see in the future Newhall Library at Lyons and Main Street.**

Just as they did with the Metrolink Station and the curbs and gutters in Newhall's neighborhoods, the folks at City Hall are going to have to use their expertise to augment those redevelopment dollars with county, state or federal funds, as appropriate, on a project-by-project basis. They aren't going to blow through the redevelopment money if they don't have to – i.e., if they can find other ways to pay for things.

Before the redevelopment money was even in the bank, various forces were already lining up to fight over the scraps. That's because three "immediate" projects are on the books that the \$28 million won't fully cover: an anchor library, two parking structures and new streetscape along Main Street (see Page 1). Everybody's got his own idea of what should happen first.

In one sense, that's a good thing. It shows that everybody cares, from the merchants to the residents to our city officials. That is perhaps the greatest change we've seen in the last, oh, twenty years.

Most of the merchants want to see the streetscape completed first – all of it, from one end of Main Street

to the other. "Piecemeal construction, that is, doing one block at a time when funds are available, prolongs the negative environment of construction," said the Old Town Newhall Association's board of directors – primarily downtown merchants and property owners.

In a split decision at its June meeting, the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, an advisory body to the City Council-Redevelopment Agency, concurred.

Look at the city's budget numbers for the coming fiscal year and you might get the idea the merchants prevailed. The city is planning to spend \$2.2 million on storm drains and streetscape; only \$200,000 toward the library; and nothing for parking structures.

In truth, though, that's only one block of streetscape, between 6th and Market, from the Canyon Theatre Guild on the south to El Trocadero Restaurant on the north.

The \$200,000 for the library isn't for construction; it's to do some demo work on property the city has been purchasing for the eventual library, plus \$300,000 that was pending at this writing for

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# More To Come In Remainder Of Year.

**PHIL ELLIS, Chairman,  
NEWHALL REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

These past six months have brought many new developments for the city of Santa Clarita. With help from the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, the reopening of the Farmers Market in Old Town Newhall has been a huge success. Running from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., the market is open every Thursday, and we encourage you and your family to join us.

Also, the implementation of the new Web site, MyNewMainStreet.com, has shown to be a great feature for the community. Everything from what stores and restaurants are in the area to future plans and activities can be found at the Web site.

As proud as we are about the first half of 2008, there is still more planned for the rest of the year. With participation from the Newhall Library Advisory Committee, the new Newhall Library is now in the design stage of development, and everything looks very hopeful.

The new designs for the



**Message From  
The Chairman**

streetscape and renaming of streets in Newhall are under way and will continue into the year. Progress has looked positive, and we are excited to see the improvements rejuvenate our historic Old Town.

I would like to remind you that with July around the corner, Santa Clarita's

**'As proud as we are about the first half of 2008, there is still more planned for the rest of the year. With participation from the Newhall Library Advisory Committee, the new Newhall Library is now in the design stage of development, and everything looks very hopeful.'**

annual Fourth of July Parade and festivities are on their way. The day will be full of events that will culminate in the city's traditional fireworks show at the Westfield Valencia Town Center. More information can be found online at SCVParade.com, and we would like to see all of your families there to help us make this year's celebration the best it can be.

With help from our community, we

are ready to take our redevelopment efforts in Newhall to the next level. I would like to remind all of you that the Newhall Redevelopment Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Century Conference Room at Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 W. Valencia Boulevard. I encourage all of you to attend and help with the planning of our great city's future.

## Old Town Newhall Events

### July

- **3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 – Old Town Newhall Farmers' Market**  
– Market Street
- **4 Fourth of July Parade – Newhall**  
**Independence Day Run – Newhall**
- **12 Music in the Mansion – William S. Hart Museum**  
**The Society (Santa Clarita Improv)**  
– Repertory East Playhouse
- **18-20 and 25-27 Hurly Burly – Repertory East Playhouse**
- **21 Summer Program Open House**  
– Newhall Community Center

### August

- **1 - 2 Hurly Burly – Repertory East Playhouse**
- **2 Hollywood at Hart**  
– William S. Hart Park and Museum
- **7, 14, 21 and 28 – Old Town Newhall Farmers' Market**  
– Market Street
- **16 Silents Under the Stars – William S. Hart Museum**
- **30 The Silver Horseshoe Saloon**  
– Old Town Newhall Association

## 2008



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# Bringing Hollywood To Hart.

By **AYESHA SALETORÉ,**  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
WILLIAM S. HART MUSEUM.

Walk down Main Street in Old Town Newhall and you may see lights, cameras and action. Did you know Santa Clarita has been used by film makers for years?

Santa Clarita has been a huge filming site for movies, television shows, commercials and music videos. From Frank Sinatra to Charlie Chaplin and the cast of "CSI" to "Deadwood," numerous movie stars have graced our grounds past and present.

There were actually a number of stars who made Santa Clarita their home, including famed silent film star William S. Hart.

As one of the top actors during his time, Hart befriended many famous personalities including Wyatt Earp, Amelia Earhart, Charles M. Russell and Will Rogers. You can learn more about Hart's film career and his circle of friends through the "Hollywood at Hart" lecture series presented by the William S. Hart Museum.

Join us August 2 for the first lecture of our series, "William S. Hart and the Western." This is sure to be an exciting talk with Beth Werling, Collections Manager of History at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. This *free* event will begin at 3 p.m. with a tour of the Hart Museum and will continue with the lecture in Hart Hall. Reservations are preferred and can be made by calling the Hart Museum at 661/254-4584.

RYAN MILLER/CAPTURE IMAGING, COURTESY OF THE WILLIAM S. HART MUSEUM



AN UPCOMING LECTURE, "WILLIAM S. HART AND THE WESTERN," IS JUST ONE IN A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF FILMMAKING IN THE HISTORY OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.

You are also welcome to visit the Museum's Web site for further updates on upcoming events such as Silents Under the Stars, Music in the Mansion, and the

Native American Pow Wow.

As always, you are invited to visit the Hart Museum for a free tour. Come see Hart's collection of Western artwork,

native American artifacts, and film paraphernalia during the Museum's extended summer hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Anthropologist To Speak About SCV's First Inhabitants.

Lecture At COC Will Address History Of The Tataviam And Neighboring Indian Tribes.

By **ALAN POLLACK, M.D.**  
PRESIDENT, SANTA CLARITA  
VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

They came sweeping across the Great Plains to the Santa Clarita Valley sometime around A.D. 450: a band of Shoshone Indians called the Tataviam.

On Saturday, July 26, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical

Society and College of the Canyons will jointly host a talk by one of the leading experts on the native Americans of Southern California. Dr. John Johnson, Curator of Anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, will deliver the talk on the history of the native Americans of the Santa Clarita Valley beginning at 2 p.m. at Mentry Hall, Room 318, on the College of the Canyons campus in Valencia.

It is theorized that some sixteen to twenty thousand years ago, the first humans migrated while tracking big game animal herds from Siberia into Alaska and the Americas across the land bridge that spanned the Bering Strait during the last Ice Age. From there, they spread southward across the North American continent.

Evidence of the first inhabitants of the Santa Clarita Valley dates back about thirteen thousand years, but little is known about them. Just over fifteen hundred years ago, the previous inhabitants of our valley were displaced by a people who migrated westward from the Great Plains.

For many years, modern historians called them the "Alliklik," but this turned out to be a derogatory name given to



**DR. JOHN JOHNSON**



**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEEDS YOU.**

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**661/254-1275  
SCVHS.ORG**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.

# Opportunities For Parents To Learn English.

## COC Profs To Teach ESL In Newhall, Canyon Country.

### News From College Of The Canyons.

Partnerships between College of the Canyons and the Newhall and Sulphur Springs elementary school districts have been forged to widen the reach of English as a Second Language (ESL) programs in Santa Clarita. College of the Canyons professors will teach noncredit ESL

classes to the parents of elementary school students at two school sites in Newhall and four in Canyon Country.

"I'm very excited about these new partnerships," said Jennifer Brezina, interim dean of Noncredit Division and Community Education at COC. "By working together, we're able to meet students' needs in a way that none of us could if we were working alone."

The opportunity was made possible through the Even Start Family Literacy program in the Newhall District and the Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) Program in the Sulphur Springs dis-

trict in Canyon Country.

Open to parents of children up to age seven, the Even Start Family Literacy program helps to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by providing parents opportunities to help their children academically and to meet their own language goals. Along with ESL classes, participants must attend parenting and Mommy and Me classes.

The CBET program provides free or subsidized English language instruction for parents and community members who pledge to tutor others.

Both programs seek to expand English proficiency in

the community.

"The Sulphur Springs School District is very excited about our CBET partnership with College of the Canyons," said Marianne Hamor, administrator of categorical programs for the Sulphur Springs District. "We have already had a tremendous response and are looking forward to continuing our partnership next fall."

To encourage parents to take the classes, the two districts will provide free childcare and the necessary books. Free from parenting obligations and extra costs, this ESL program should attract any eager learner. ESL classes provide non-native

English speakers the training to successfully function as students in an English-speaking college. The classes also offer students the opportunity to communicate on a broader scale, enhancing their own lives.

The school sites involved in the programs are Newhall and McGrath elementary in the Newhall District; and Leona Cox, Valley View, Mint Canyon and Sulphur Springs in the Sulphur Springs district.

For information about classes in Newhall, call Kelly Ferko at 661/291-4010; for Sulphur Springs call Marianne Hamor at 661/252-5131.

# New Lab For Budding Scientists.

## Elementary School Goes High-Tech.

By PATTI RASMUSSEN,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

Students at Newhall Elementary School have been busy with hands-on, interactive science projects since the school opened the doors to its new Alfred E. Mann Science Lab. The state-of-the-art room has proven to be a wonderful learning environment for all grade levels.

Located in the school's old library, the lab is one of the most spacious in the Santa Clarita Valley. Funded by in part by the Newhall Education Endowment Foundation (comprised of parents, teachers and administrators) and grants from the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation, as well as a major donation from the Alfred E. Mann Foundation, the Science Lab boasts spacious lab tables, wireless computer stations, an interactive Promethean wipe board, microscopes and other essential lab equipment used for experiments and studies.

"Science has always played a special role at Newhall Elementary," said Principal Timothy Lankford. "We really want to engage the students and continue to enhance that."

On a recent school day, fifth-grade

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.



PATTI RASMUSSEN

STUDENTS USE SPECIAL REMOTE-CONTROL ANSWERING DEVICES TO PARTICIPATE IN A QUIZ IN THE NEW HIGH-TECH SCIENCE LAB AT NEWHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

# Newhall District Appoints Two New Principals.

News From  
The Newhall School District.

The Governing Board of the Newhall School District appointed two new principals on June 3.

Sarah Johnson, currently assistant principal at Newhall Elementary School, will lead Peachland Elementary School starting July 1. That day, Sandra Reveles, assistant principal at Dr. J. Michael McGrath Elementary, will become the leader of Old Orchard Elementary.

Johnson and Reveles will replace two retiring principals. After twenty-two years in the Newhall district, Ruth Gauthier will be leaving Old Orchard School where she was principal for thirteen years. After four years at the helm of Peachland School and twenty-two years in the district, Judy Upham will be stepping down. Both principals led their sites to California Distinguished School status.

Johnson, who taught in the Los

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.



REVELES.



JOHNSON.

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## THE EXECUTION!

Vasquez on the Scaffold!

HOW HE BEHAVED!

"May God Have Mercy on My Soul!"

[FROM THE BEE'S SPECIAL REPORTER.]

SAN JOSE—JAIL YARD, 2 P. M.

Tiburcio Vasquez has looked his last upon earth. At half-past one o'clock to-day this notorious bandit was launched into eternity. His last moments previous to his execution were passed with calmness worthy of a stoic. At 12:15 P. M., the officers and members of the press were received by Vasquez in one of the corridors of the jail, shaking hands with all, irrespective of previous acquaintance, bowing to such as they passed him in the most obsequious manner, nearly one hundred officers, including Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, police officials and others. The excitement was intense. Hundreds surrounded the jail, and at one o'clock admission to the yard was almost impossible. The scaffold was the same one used in Sacramento to effect the execution of Mortimer, Cotta and Estrada. At one o'clock the rope was adjusted to the beam by A. H. Fulton, late mate of the ship Sontag. Just before he emerged from the cell the death warrant was read to him, and at 12:55 o'clock he left the jail, and preceded by Father Serda, he ascended the steps of his gibbet, being followed by Sheriff Adams and two deputies. The gangway from the cell door was densely crowded. As they passed to the drop Father Serda asked that all would say the Lord's Prayer after him. The coat was taken from the prisoner by Deputy Sheriffs Winchell and Sellman, who also strapped him. The priest administered the last rites, a white gown was placed around his form and the rope tied by the Deputy Sheriffs, the condemned man repeating prayers for the dead and asking forgiveness of the Almighty. The drop fell at 1:35 and the neck must have been broken instantly as the pulse in the right wrist ceased immediately for several minutes, then commenced beating at the regular

# Tiburcio Vasquez, California's Own Jesse James.

Vasquez Rocks Served As  
Hideout For Famous Outlaw.

By ALAN POLLACK, M.D.  
PRESIDENT, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

In the Wild West of the 1870s, lawlessness was rampant on the Western frontier. Jesse James and his James-Younger Gang terrorized the Midwest from Missouri to Minnesota and gained nationwide fame until they met their match against the citizens of Northfield, Minnesota, in September 1876.

The citizens fought back against the outlaws, severely wounding the Younger brothers, who rode out of town with Frank and Jesse James but were soon captured in Madelia, Minnesota, and sent to prison.

Jesse James escaped to commit a few more train robberies before he was gunned

rate. The left wrist beat feebly at first but increased rapidly until it reached 120 per minute, gradually decreasing for 7½ minutes when he was pronounced dead. The body hung 20 minutes and was then cut down and placed in a room in a house in the yard where the neck was pronounced broken by the physicians. Thus has another legal tragedy been completed, and Vasquez, the most notorious bandit since the times of Joaquin Murietta, Tom Bell and "Rattlesnake Dick," passed into eternity. All agree that he died instantly, and all could perceive that no struggle or tremor passed through his frame. He died without confessing a single murder, simply saying when the death warrant was read to him: "I am destined to die; may God have mercy on my soul."

#### Permit of Burial.

SAN JOSE, March 19.  
Rev. Father Serda this morning issued the following permit of the burial of Vasquez: "San Jose, March 19, 10:40 A. M.—To the Rev. Father Luis Basio, Santa Clara, I hereby certify that there is every hope possible that the body of Tiburcio Vasquez, who is to die this afternoon, shall be entitled to Christian burial. He has been already comforted with the sacraments of the Holy Catholic Church, and he is very resigned and willing to accept death. [signed] Lawrence Serda, Catholic Priest."

About 300 tickets to the jail yard have been issued.

down and killed by Bob Ford in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1882.

Billy the Kid became famous after participating in the Lincoln County War, a battle between competing merchants and their cohorts in Lincoln, New Mexico, in 1878. Billy met the same fate as Jesse James when he was shot dead in the darkened bedroom of his friend Pete Maxwell by Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on July 14, 1881.

While he never gained the same degree of fame as James and The Kid, during the same period California had its own legendary outlaw in Tiburcio Vasquez.

Tiburcio Vasquez was born in Monterey, California, in 1835 and grew up during the romantic Spanish Rancho period. But as did many Mexican *Californios*, he felt victimized by the rapid influx of Americans from the East Coast during and after the California Gold Rush.

Vasquez began his life of crime after being accused of stabbing and murdering Monterey County Constable William Hardmount during a fandango in 1854. In the early days of his career he robbed cattle and horses, freight wagons and stage coaches. He spent most of the 1860s in and out of San Quentin prison, from which he was finally released in 1870. But Vasquez was just getting started.

Vasquez earned his fifteen minutes of fame when he led a sensational robbery in the town of Tres Piños (modern day Paicines) just south of Hollister in the Monterey-San Jose area.

In August 1873, Vasquez led a gang of eight men into Tres Piños, taking over the town and killing three men in the process. To his dying day, Vasquez denied ever killing anyone, but his testimony was contrary to that of eyewitnesses from Tres Piños and his own gang member Abdon Leiva.

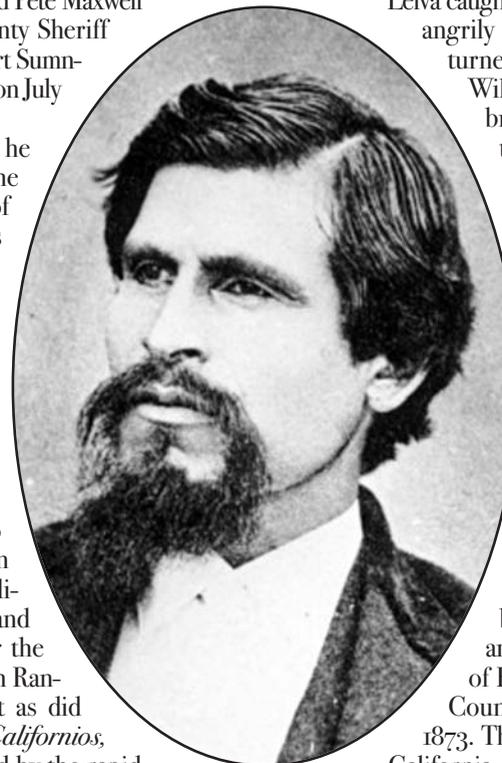
After Tres Piños, Vasquez became a

sensation and a most-wanted outlaw. Sheriff posses were chasing him all over the state.

Vasquez had one fatal flaw that eventually ended his career: He was a womanizer. After Tres Piños, he had fled to a ranch at Lake Elizabeth near the Antelope Valley.

There he had a tryst with Leiva's wife.

Leiva caught them together and angrily quit the gang and turned himself in to William Jenkins, who brought Leiva down to Lyon's Station in present-day Newhall and turned him over to Los Angeles officers. Leiva would eventually testify against Vasquez at his murder trial in San Jose.



Vasquez committed another infamous robbery, taking over and sacking the town of Kingston in Fresno County in December 1873. The following month, California Governor Newton

Booth offered an award for the capture of Vasquez: two thousand dollars dead, three thousand alive. The amounts were later increased to six thousand and eight thousand.

During the next few months, Vasquez would elude capture as he was chased by Los Angeles County Sheriff William Rowland and Alameda County Sheriff Harry Morse. He robbed a stagecoach at the Coyote Holes stage station on the road between the Cerro Gordo silver mines in the Owens Valley and Los Angeles. He then headed south, ending up in Soledad Canyon where he hid out in a strange-looking geologic formation that today bears his name—Vasquez Rocks.

By April 1874, Vasquez emerged from his hideouts to take up residence at the Rancho La Brea home of Georgias Caralambo, better known as Greek George, a onetime camel driver for Edward F. Beale's camel experiment in the late 1850s. Modern historians think the ranch was located in present-day West Hollywood near the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Kings

# Hart Class Of '68 Knew It All.

## Grads Plan Forty-Year Reunion To See How Things Have Changed.

By DARRYL MANZER,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

For once, the odors of onions and the stockyard stayed away from campus and the football field. The smog wasn't too bad, either. Hardly any winds, so there wasn't much dust in the air. It was graduation week at Hart High School – in 1968.

It was typical June weather. Not too cold and not too hot. Pools were just about the right temperature for swimming. Nights were Southern California perfect. All night at Disneyland beckoned those about to walk up



Darryl Manzer.

to get their diplomas from William S. Hart High School. The graduates had rehearsed the ceremony every morning, followed by a week of afternoons off campus even if it wasn't officially sanctioned. Afternoons were party time.

The graduation was the last to take place in the Santa Clarita Valley when there was only one high school. The Hart High Class of 1968 looked forward to college, and dreams, and avoiding the draft (or getting into the military to avoid the draft). The members of that class had everything going for them – and at the same time, everything against them.

Historical events were most unkind to the year 1968. We lost Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy to the bullets of assassins. Protests and riots about the war in Vietnam, racism, poverty, voting rights, political conventions and the escalating lists of those killed in all the violence and war made it a year of unkindness. But not yet, for those graduating from Hart.

We knew we could still win the war in Vietnam and defeat



**HART CLASS OF '68** – This rowdy bunch plans to get together in October to see how things have changed in the past forty years. From the looks of things, we'd say things certainly have changed – for the better. That's Darryl Manzer in the back row, second from right, with the billy club. At top left behind the eye patch is someone you won't recognize as the pirate John Boston.

those communists invading South Vietnam and its soon-to-be democratically elected government. (At least it would have been elected some day, if the battles of Tet hadn't ended the idea of free elections). We knew the mighty American military could not be defeated in any war, and for good measure, we also knew that soon America would land men on the moon and get them back to Earth.

We knew these things would happen and – we learned over the years that we may not have known everything we thought we knew.

We watched the news from Vietnam, and the first attempts of freedom's call in the Eastern European countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The music we listened to, the movies and television shows we watched, reflected our political awareness and inability to understand politics at all. We wanted to "Make love, not war" and "Draft beer, not students."

Our hair wasn't yet long because until we had the diploma in hand, the dress code still gov-

**'The Hart High Class of 1968 looked forward to college, and dreams, and avoiding the draft (or getting into the military to avoid the draft). The members of that class had everything going for them – and at the same time, everything against them.'**

erned our lives at Hart High.

Here's a neat little set of facts from that year: A gallon of regular gasoline at Mel and Sonny's Union Station in Newhall or Jerry's Chevron in Saugus was somewhere around 19.9 cents. Some of us had jobs that paid as much as three dollars per hour, but most got little more than the minimum wage of one twenty-five an hour.

A gallon of gas and two McDonald's burgers cost about the same – and produced about the

same energy – but the only McDonald's was in the San Fernando Valley. We had A&W and the Saugus Café, or Tip's, or...

What the heck, it was only forty years ago. Not long, when you think about it.

Those dirty commies did take over South Vietnam – and have turned into some pretty good capitalists. I would bet you own some clothes made in Vietnam. We shall not speak of China, the country which Wal-Mart is building and we are paying for on plastic that is financed by Chinese investors.

Eastern Europe has been reunited with the West, and now the Euro is worth more than the dollar. In 1968 it wasn't even a thought; "Europe will never unite" – well, it did.

But we, the Class of 1968 from William S. Hart High School, had one more test before we could head into that future we know so well today. We still had to make sure we passed Mr. Sims' civics class and get our diploma after another speech by "the judge." We would sing the alma mater one more time and, after turning in our cap and gowns, get on the buses for Disneyland!

It was the only place to go. Magic Mountain was a stockyard. A last night as Hart High students ... the only high school in the whole Newhall, Saugus, and Castaic area...

We were looking on the Internet and started e-mailing each other, finding old classmates, and thinking, *Forty years – that is just a little bit of time. I've not changed at all, but I'll bet those others have, and I'd love to see them...*

In typical Class-of-1968 fashion, we had only one answer to that: Time to party!

It's all set for October 18, 2008.

If, after this shock, you find that you're a Class of 1968 member from Hart High and would like to join the rest of us, check this out, our very own Web site: [www.hart1968-40threunion.com](http://www.hart1968-40threunion.com).

There, you can find all about the planned events. What the heck, we'll even allow members of other Hart classes from any year – but I will not dance with my sisters (1959 and 1962). See y'all there!

Just a thought: E-mail, Web sites, laptops, PCs, Macs, the Internet, cell phones, iPods, MP3 players and all kinds of other stuff didn't exist way back when we graduated. Heck, boys didn't take typing class, either.

How many hours have all of us been at keyboards in the last forty years?

*Darryl Manzer grew up in the Pico Canyon oil town of Mentryville in the 1960s and went to Hart. He joined the Navy and currently lives in Virginia.*

TELL OTHER GAZETTE READERS WHAT YOU THINK.  
LETTERS@OLDTOWNNEWHALL.COM

## Science, CONT.

FROM PAGE 5.

students from Ms. Heesun Kehl's class studied the solar system. Kehl used the Promethean board to quiz her students on the planets and their make-up. An interactive quiz tested the students' knowledge in almost a game-show atmosphere as they locked in their answers on individual, hand-held devices.

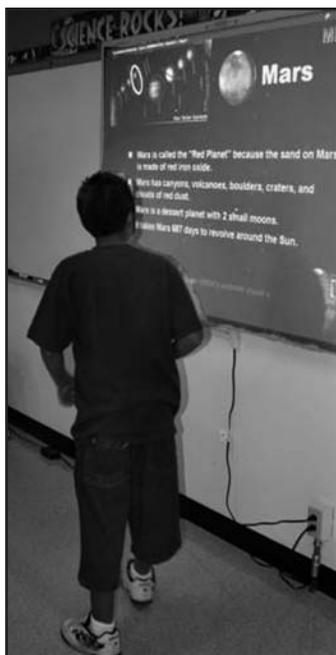
"Student engagement is really big with these boards," Lankford said while watching the students react to the correct answers.

Teachers have been just as receptive to the new space. "The lab is great," Kehl said. "We can set up all that we need for a lesson beforehand. We have water and the resources necessary for our lessons. The technology enhances everything we do and really gets the students engaged."

Kehl's students have truly enjoyed some of the experiments, most recently gathering information on tornadoes. The lab was constructed with numerous cabinets to hold a variety of necessary science equipment all neatly stored and accessible.

Newhall Superintendent Marc Winger praised the parents and others who have supported the school and said with the new science lab, students will continue to gain valuable knowledge and get the head start that is needed to compete in this high-tech world.

"The (foundation's) fundrais-



PATTI RASMUSSEN

### TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEW SCIENCE LAB AT NEWHALL ELEMENTARY INCLUDES A "PROMETHEAN BOARD."

ing effort was extremely successful and they were able to build a state-of-the-art facility for our students," Winger said. "The lab is one of only two in the district and a rarity at the elementary school level. We all appreciate their efforts."

The Science Lab is not the only change happening at the oldest school in the Newhall District. Last year, a couple of old classrooms were demolished and a freestanding, modern library was constructed. This summer, all of the old windows will be replaced with upgraded, dual-paned windows. Both the library and the replacement windows were funded by Measure K bond money.

## Summer 'Stay-cation' At The REP.

'81 Series' Returns In July  
With A Dark Adult Comedy.

By OVINGTON MICHAEL OWSTON,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
REPERTORY EAST PLAYHOUSE.

Are gas prices ruining your summer plans? No need to worry – the REP will save you.

The Repertory East Playhouse will continue the highly praised "81 Series" on Friday, July 18, at 8 p.m. with the critically acclaimed drama, "HurlyBurly," by David Rabe. Be a part of The 81 at the Opening Night Wine Reception at 7 p.m., with curtain at 8 p.m. The Opening Night Wine Reception is sponsored by Loose Goose Wine Festival.

The 81 Series, or our "studio series," features limited-engagement performances of more academic, provocative pieces of theatre by well known and respected playwrights throughout the theatre world. Most of the themes explored in The 81 Series deal with pertinent social ideals and values of American society.

"HurlyBurly" is a riveting dark comedy which chronicles the non-events in the lives of a group of fast-talking, narcissistic, L.A.-based professionals, nose deep in the decadent, perverted, cocaine-laden culture that is Hollywood. We follow the characters – who can't seem to slow down long enough to breathe, let alone make sense of their lives – as they pursue their sex-crazed, dope-ridden vision of the American Dream.

The Off-Broadway production, directed by Mike Nichols and starring William Hurt, Sigourney Weaver, Judith Ivey, Christopher Walken, Harvey Keitel and Jerry Stiller, received high praise. "A powerful permanent contribution to American drama," said Newsweek; "Riveting, disturbing, fearsomely



REP PHOTO

FROM LEFT: DANIEL LENCH,  
PHILLIP PECK, MIKEE SCHWINN,  
OVINGTON MICHAEL OWSTON.

funny ... has a savage sincerity and a crackling theatrical vitality. This deeply felt play deserves as wide an audience as possible."

"HurlyBurly" opens Friday, July 18, and will run through August 2. Show times are Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. This is a limited engagement performance. The show contains adult language and adult situations and is intended for mature audiences only.

For tickets, purchase online at [www.repeastplayhouse.org](http://www.repeastplayhouse.org) or call 661/288-0000. The REP is located at 24266 Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

The REP will host post-show discussions immediately following each Sunday performance. Join the cast and crew for an intimate discussion about the process of creating live theatre.

"HurlyBurly" stars REP veterans Mikee Schwinn, Ovington Michael Owston, Daniel Lench, Phillip Peck, Kristen Paige, Nicole Dionne and newcomer Leslie Connely.

## Hispanic Council Honors Resident, Restaurant.

For the past four years, the Santa Clarita Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Council has held an Excelencia awards ceremony to honor outstanding Hispanic businesses and individuals. This year the ceremony was held May 22 at the Repertory East Playhouse in Old Town Newhall.

The Business of the Year award went to El Trocadero Restaurant, located on the corner of Market and Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

Owner Raul Bojorquez and his wife, Dora, established the restaurant in May 1998. Over the past ten years, El Trocadero's beautiful surroundings, festivities and great food have added a component of excite-

ment to Newhall. It has become a place to have parties, meetings or just to hang out and natter with friends. Give Raul a call at 661/248-6615.

Longtime Newhall resident and



downtown supporter Suzie Szabo won the Community Leader of the Year award. Suzie has been proactive in the revitalization of Old Town Newhall for the past ten years and is the Old Town Newhall Association's downtown manager.

Suzie is well known in the community and not only works but also volunteers what little time she has left to promote, inform and represent the residents, property owners and businesses of Old Town Newhall. Suzie would love to talk to you about what is happening, how you can be part of the excitement, and what OTNA can do for you.

Give her a call at the OTNA office at 661/253-0730.

## Soccer Store Donates To Community Center.

The City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Community Center recently received a generous donation of more than \$4,000 worth of top-of-the-line, brand-name soccer shoes from Planet Soccer, a retail establishment in Old Town Newhall. The owner of Planet Soccer, Carlos Marroquin, made the donation to benefit the underprivileged youth who participate in the Newhall Community Center's soccer program. The center's soccer program serves more than fifty high-risk youth, ages thirteen through sixteen.

"Planet Soccer is providing the Community Center's low-income youth with this prestigious opportunity that would be otherwise unaffordable for them and is also contributing to and creating a positive alternative for the high-risk youth in the community," said Efren Galindo, the Community Center's sports coordinator.

## Johnson, CONT.

FROM PAGE 4.

them by their neighbors to the west, the Chumash. "Alliklik" roughly translates to "grun- ters" or "stammerers," a reference to the sound of their Uto-Aztecan dialect.

More recently they have been known as the Tataviam, or "people of the sunny slopes," so named by the Kitanemuk Indians of the Antelope Valley, due to their habit of building villages on southern-facing slopes of mountains to maximize sun exposure.

The Tataviam were hunters and gatherers who lived in approximately twenty-five vil- lages dotting the region consisting of cone- shaped huts of willow poles covered with grass.

The main and largest village, called Chaguayabit, was thought to be located at Castaic Junction. There were also smaller vil- lages at present-day Piru, Camulos and Newhall. Their territory ranged from Piru on the west to Newhall on the south and the Lebec area on the north.

They subsisted on small game such as deer, rabbits, squirrels and snakes, and also ate plants such as acorns, yucca, sage, agave, juniper berries and buckwheat. They practiced a form of shamanism, communicating with the supernatural world through hallucinations brought on by the use of jimsonweed and other hallucinogenic plants gathered along local streams. Artifacts found in our valley suggest that trade existed between the Tataviam and people in Agua Dulce and farther to the east.

For many centuries, the Tataviam coex- isted with nature and continued the same cus- toms and practices; very little changed in the valley. But in August 1769, the world of the Tataviam was to change forever. That month, a group of Spanish soldiers and missionaries led by Gaspar de Portolá crossed over the San Gabriel Mountains into the Santa Clarita Val-



**THE AREA INHABITED BY THE TATAVIAM INDIANS INCLUDES WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.**

ley. They were on a land expedition out of Baja California with the purpose to find and colo- nize Monterey Bay before it could be settled by Russian fur traders coming down from

Alaska. On the way, the first California mis- sion was established in San Diego by Father Junipero Serra.

These "strange looking" people were

warmly greeted by the Tataviam. The Spanish believed these peoples should be taught mod- ern agriculture and converted to Christianity. A mission was established in 1797 in San Fer- nando. An outpost of the mission, the Estancia de San Francisco Xavier, was built in 1804 on a bluff overlooking the present-day Magic Mountain amusement park.

The Tataviam, along with other Native American peoples of the region, were brought to the Mission San Fernando by the Spanish to live and learn European ways. Within a few years, most of the Tataviam peo- ple were working for the mission. The last full blooded Tataviam is thought to be Juan José Fustero, who died near Camulos in 1921.

According to the Santa Barbara Muse- um of Natural History, Dr. John Johnson's "career has been devoted to understanding the culture and history of the Chumash In- dians and their neighbors in south central Cali- fornia through the study of archaeology, archival records, and interviews with contem- porary native Americans. Johnson has pub- lished more than forty studies about Southern California Indians, particularly the Chumash. His work to preserve important archaeologi- cal sites and collections has been recognized formally by the Society for California Archae- ology, which awarded him their Mark Har- rington Award for Conservation Archaeology in 2002."

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Soci- ety and College of the Canyons are proud to present this distinguished expert on local Native American history. College of the Canyons is located in Valencia off the Valencia Boulevard exit of Interstate 5. Visitors to the lecture should park in the South Parking Lot off of Rockwell Canyon Road, then proceed to Mentry Hall. For a map of the campus, go to [canyons.edu/offices/PIO/keyinfo/CampusMap.asp](http://canyons.edu/offices/PIO/keyinfo/CampusMap.asp).

The general public is welcome. Admis- sion is free. For more information on this and other upcoming programs from the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, call 661/254-1275 or visit [scvhs.org](http://scvhs.org).

## Vasquez, CONT.

FROM PAGE 6.

Road. It was here that Vasquez' pen- chant for women got him into trouble yet again and ended his outlaw days.

After one final robbery at the Repetto Ranch in present-day Mon- terey Park, Vasquez was chased by a sheriff's posse up the Arroyo Seco into the San Gabriel Mountains. He crossed over the mountains and possi- bly camped again at Vasquez Rocks before returning through Lyon's Sta- tion to the ranch of Greek George.

It was May 1874; Vasquez made the fatal error of remaining at Greek George's ranch to continue a liaison

with a señorita after his friends had urged him to flee to Mexico. Sheriff Morse had gotten word of his where- abouts and relayed the information to Rowland. On May 13, Rowland sent a posse led by Undersheriff Albert Johnson to capture Vasquez at Greek George's ranch.

The posse hid out and observed the ranch from Nichol's Canyon in the Hollywood Hills. The next day, they apprehended a wagon driven by two Mexicans and forced them to drive to the house occupied by Vasquez. They surrounded the house just as a woman opened the door and shouted a warn- ing to Vasquez. The ever-wily Vasquez leaped out a kitchen window but was shot several times by posse members and was finally captured. He was brought to a Los Angeles jail where he

spent nine days as an instant celebrity, with throngs of reporters and women clamoring to see him.

Vasquez was charged with the murder of Leander Davidson at Tres Piños and was brought to San Jose to stand trial. His celebrity status contin- ued in San Jose, especially among the Spanish population who treated him as a hero.

The trial took place in San Jose in January 1875. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. As were to be the fates of Jesse James and Billy the Kid after him, Tiburcio Vasquez met his untimely end on March 19, 1875, when he was hanged in San Jose.

Live by the sword, die by the sword. His final word was reported to be "pronto."

## Principals, CONT.

FROM PAGE 5.

Angeles Unified School District and Newhall, has served as an assis- tant principal for two years. Reveles started teaching in Los Angeles Unified and came to Newhall from the Lennox School District. She has also served as an assistant principal for two years.

Both new principals have extensive backgrounds in working with English language learner populations, which is important to their new assignments. Reveles has extensive training as a staff development specialist at the elementary level and Johnson is currently heading up the Newhall School District's July summer school program.

"The recruitment and selection process for two positions was intense," said Beverly Knutson, assistant superintendent for human resources. "We had many qualified candidates from outside and inside the district, but in the end, we are happy that we were able to select two finalists from our own ranks."

## Parade, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

on the streets of Old Town Newhall each year. Musical groups, civic organizations, equestrian units and local businesses will comprise the bulk of this year's parade lineup.

The Santa Clarita Valley Parade Committee, a group of dedicated, civic-minded volunteers, works each year to bring local residents what they believe to be the best hometown parade in the country.

"There are two things we can count on each year," said Parade Chairman Leon Worden. "First, the parade will always be on July 4, and second, it will always be hot that day."

"The Sights and Sounds of Santa Clarita" is this year's parade theme. As the day begins to warm, the parade march officially begins at 9:45 a.m., winding its way through the streets of Old Town Newhall and beyond.

From its starting gate at Hart Park, the procession travels north on Main Street (formerly San Fernando Road), turning west on Lyons Avenue before proceeding north along Orchard Village Road. The parade ends at 16th Street near Placerita Junior High School.

Announcer stations along the route offer spectators play-by-play action as floats, cyclists, autos, musicians, dignitaries, community pageant queens, equestrian and marching brigades proceed along the route. With street closures by 8:30 a.m., early arrival is strongly recommended for the best choice of viewing locations.

Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and plenty of sunscreen, but leave the Silly String and water toys at home. Strict enforcement will be in effect for a city ordinance prohibiting the use of Silly String and all other projectile devices along the parade route.

Parents: Don't make the mistake of assuming that just because a vendor sells contraband, your children are allowed to use it. Not the case. The city does not regulate vendors or their wares at present time, so it is not illegal for Silly String or water toys to be sold. But due to the potential for injury to people, horses and automobiles with expensive paint jobs, it is against the law for anything to be projected into the line of march.

It all began in the midst of the Great Depression. In

## Fourth Of July Itinerary.

### Before the Parade:

- **6:30 a.m. Equestrian staging begins at Heritage Junction (Hart Park).**
- **7 a.m. Santa Clarita Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast in the Roger Dunn Golf parking lot on San Fernando Road between 5th and 6th streets.**
- **7 a.m. Parade registration opens at Veterans Historical Plaza.**
- **8 a.m. Street closures scheduled.**
- **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.**
- **9 a.m. Santa Clarita Runners' 5K Run-Walk starting and ending at Newhall Park.**
- **9:30 a.m. Parade registration closes.**

### 9:45 a.m. PARADE BEGINS.

- **Approx. 1:30 p.m. Trophies awarded at El Trocadero Restaurant.**

### After the Parade:

- **Approx. 9:20 p.m. City of Santa Clarita Fireworks Show at Westfield Valencia Town Center; to be shot off from the roof of a parking structure. No other entertainment at this venue.**
- **Also: Fireworks over Stevenson Ranch and Castaic Lake.**

1932, some notable locals teamed together to organize a march down the streets of Newhall on July 4th in a show of patriotism. The 1932 parade had an "Old Time" theme, complete with an old-time prospector and his family, the infamous Mule Team freight line, cowboys, ranchers and other iconic features of a bygone era.

Among the more memorable moments of that inaugural parade:

– S.D. Dill's brand-new 1932 school bus was an impressive lesson in the progress both of transportation and in the number of pupils.

– The "Catholic Ladies" won Sweepstakes for their model of the San Fernando Mission, complete with Indians, padre and other features.

– Newhall Ice – still in business today – won the "originality" prize for its blocks of ice with flowers and fruit inside.

– Opal Houghton's stunning hat won her the "best ladies costume" prize, presented by Ruby Kellogg.

– Jess Doty and his men put on an odd stunt. A car of 1913 was shown with some wheels out of center and, known as Galloping Lizzie, was followed by one of the newest models.

– Herb Ball's freight line got stuck and lost the water wagon but finally got its place with the sixteen mule team.

– After the parade, fully two thousand people milled around, visiting, greeting friends, dodging the fire crackers and waiting the opening of the barbecue dinner.

– Politicians made patriotic speeches, and sporting events lasted until sundown.

– The greased pig and greased pole contests seemed to make the most sport, the pole climbing being continued until finally Robert Poore of Glendale managed to overcome the slippery handicap and get the \$2.50 prize.

From its humble beginnings, Santa Clarita's Fourth of July festivities have always gotten bigger and better. The 1932 parade saw no fewer than twenty-seven official entries, with about a hundred horsemen, rodeo performers, cowboys, cowgirls and movie stars.

The 2008 parade lineup will round out at approximately one hundred entries, complete with equestrian units, local law enforcement, young marching brigades and, of course, politicians. It is a fine tradition and one that has stayed the same more than it has changed over the years.

The key is for everyone to enjoy the pride and patriotism that makes Santa Clarita a great place to live, work and play. Come witness the "Sights and Sounds of Santa Clarita" on the streets of Old Town Newhall this year. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!

## Editorial, CONT.

FROM PAGE 2.

architectural plans.

The actual library construction funds will probably come in the following year's budget, with the rest of the streetscape spread out over three or four years.

Why is it happening this way? For several reasons. If you want details, come to the next Redevelopment Committee meeting on July 7 at 7 p.m. in the Century Room at City Hall. In the meantime I'll throw out a few thoughts.

Newhall needs a new library for all of the reasons spelled out in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan and more. The existing, quaint little Newhall Library was built in the 1950s for a community of a few thousand people. It can't

handle the growth. It's bursting at the seams.

True, people who use the Internet might not be borrowing books from libraries like they once did. But new libraries ain't what they used to be, either. They are places with homework help and other programs for kids. (The Boys & Girls Club and the Community Center can't accommodate all the need.) They are places where people can go online. (Compared to the rest of the city, Newhall has the fewest at-home Internet hookups.) They are places that can stock books to augment the elementary school curriculum. (Newhall School District Superintendent Marc Winger says his schools aren't getting enough state funds for enough books.) They are places that can offer computer training to seniors. (The Senior Center and senior housing are right down the street, with more on the way.) They are places that can showcase local art. (Newhall lacks a permanent art gallery.) The list goes on.

The City Council and senior city employees are committed to building a new

library for all the right reasons, and they note that the merchants of Old Town have much to gain from an impressive landmark facility that will bring potential shoppers and diners downtown.

Why not forgo the library and use the redevelopment funds to do the entire streetscape all at once? The biggest reason, in the city's view as I understand it, is the manner in which Newhall is going to change. Entire blocks of current one- and two-story buildings are going to be demolished to make way for three- and four-story buildings with upstairs apartments and condos over ground-floor retail shops. It wouldn't make much sense (and nobody could afford) to put in the streetscape in front of the current buildings, then have to rip out the streetscape when you rip out the block, and put it in a second time.

Rather, you put in the streetscape when the block is done, or as it's being completed. That's why the city is starting on the block between 6th and Market. It's basically done. The Trocadero building isn't going to be

demolished anytime soon; the city-redevelopment agency spent \$69,000 to make it look the way it does. Same with the Canyon Theatre Guild; the city-redevelopment agency put \$400,000 into it.

The other big factor is financing. Just as the city was able to use federal Community Development Block Grant funding for curbs and gutters in Newhall's neighborhoods, it will probably be able to apply for similar moneys for curbs and gutters (read: streetscape) along Main Street. The money doesn't come all at once, and it doesn't come retroactively; if the city spends redevelopment money on streetscape now, the feds won't reimburse it.

What of the two parking structures? They'll go in as two blocks are demolished and rebuilt. The city will have to put millions of dollars into them – but whose money? Possibly some of redevelopment's housing money, since they're connected to affordable housing. Possibly some regular redevelopment money, if any is left. Possibly some other mon-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

# Planning A Party? Think Poka Dott.

Alex Hernandez  
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

*Old Town Newhall is a hub for small business. National fast-food chain restaurants and retail stores are nowhere to be found. In an effort to highlight unique or new businesses, each edition of The Gazette spotlights an Old Town Newhall establishment. This month's spotlight is on Poka Dott Trinket and Party Shoppe at 24337 Main Street.*

Owner Stephanie Weier initially opened her store in May 2004 in a different location along Bouquet Canyon Road. She then moved the store to Old Town Newhall, opening its doors on Main Street in September 2007.

Stephanie specifically chose to open in Old Town Newhall to be among other independent retailers. She hopes the store will draw more one-of-a-kind, unique stores to be her neighbors and make Old Town Newhall a destination for locals and visitors.

Since opening, the dynamic and engaging owner-operator has capitalized on the neighborhood's foot traffic and has diversified the store's offerings and marketing efforts.

The store prides itself on excellent customer service and has recently focused on expanding corporate accounts for party planning services. The store is known for delivery services, custom work and balloon designs, as well as unique products and gifts.

Recently, the store was selected for a segment on a new A&E cable television show, "We Mean Business." A crew filmed in the store for two days, remodeling the store's interi-

## Old Town Newhall Business Spotlight.



OWNER STEPHANIE WEIER AND HER STAFF AT POKA DOTT HAVE BROUGHT A FUN AND UNIQUE APPROACH TO THEIR PARTY STORE IN OLD TOWN NEWHALL.

or, installing new technology and working with Weier to streamline the business. The taping finished with a grand reopening of the store, and the episode is expected to air in the fall.

Weier hopes to take up product development and *avant-garde* balloon designs. She and some of her staff will undergo Certified Balloon Artist training and testing later this year.

Almost daily, Weier has first-time customers discover the store in Old Town Newhall and remark that it is a hidden treasure. They are taken aback by the product range, from balloon bouquets and designs to party packs complete with the essentials such as balloons, plates, cups and napkins. The store's services also include gift wrapping and personalized goodie bags.

A new Web site, PokaDott.com, was recently launched with sections to shop for balloons, cards, gift bags, gifts and party goods. Weier has also set aside a Reading Room for customers to browse selected books that she recommends for party planning and hosting. Visitors can also sign up to receive her newsletters, join a VIP membership group, or purchase gift cards.

Make sure to visit Poka Dott Trinket and Party Shoppe to find that special gift, or for your next celebration. The store is located at 24337 Main Street (formerly San Fernando Road) in Old Town Newhall. Hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Poka Dott can be reached at 661/296-9884 or you can shop online at PokaDott.com. Poka Dott is a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Old Town Newhall Association.

## Editorial,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 10.

eys. Too early to know.

It would be nice to see Los Angeles County put some money into the new Newhall library since, after all, it is part of the County Library system, but sources indicate hell would have to freeze over first. Remember: The county didn't pay to build the Jo Anne Darcy County Library in Canyon Country. The city did.

What does your humble editor think should happen? All of it. The library, the streetscape, the parking structures, and everything else in the Specific Plan. The \$28 million isn't nearly enough, and if past experience is an indication of future results, then the city can and will pursue additional funding sources to stretch the redevelopment money. It won't happen all at once – and all of it won't

happen, if the money wizards at City Hall have their hands tied.

What should happen first? As far as I'm concerned, you do what you can, when you can do it. The city has an excellent track record of conservative fiscal management. While other cities are going broke in these difficult times of a deflated real estate market and insane gasoline prices, ours isn't. If outside money is available for the library, the city will go after it. If outside money is available for parking structures or streetscape, the city will go after it.

I know the merchants don't want to see a permanent construction zone in Old Town Newhall. The truth is, with or without streetscape, it will be a construction zone for several years to come as the Specific Plan is implemented and the buildings are redeveloped block-by-block.

### NORTHNEWHALL.

Gazette readers will remember talk of

North Newhall, a plan for housing and commercial development north of Old Town, on and around the "Cowboy Festival parking lot."

The plan calls for the removal of the existing at-grade railroad crossing at 13th street. It would be replaced with an at-grade crossing at Lyons Avenue, which is to be extended to Dockweiler.

Several agencies must sign off on the plan, including the Public Utilities Commission, which regulates railroad crossings.

Before launching the official approval process, the city asked the PUC for an opinion. The PUC generally frowns on new at-grade crossings because they're more dangerous to vehicles and pedestrians (not to mention trains) than are bridges over, or tunnels under, train tracks.

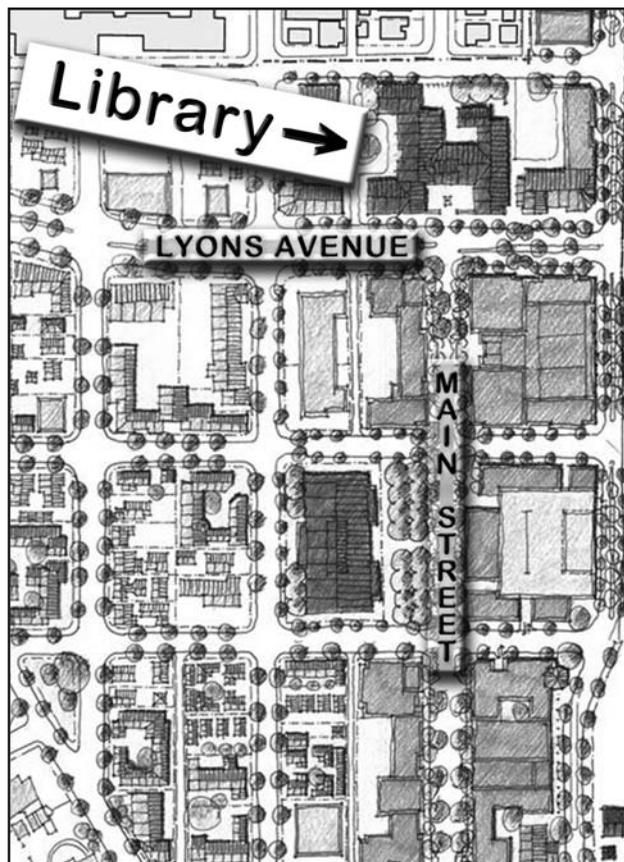
Thus the PUC's response to the city was about what one would expect: It likes the idea of eliminating the at-grade crossing at 13th street but opposes a new at-grade crossing at Lyons.

In a May 22 letter, the PUC said it "strongly recommends that the city grade-separate Lyons Avenue over Metro's tracks" (meaning a bridge or tunnel), and said the city should "examine whether a grade separation of Lyons Avenue is practicable."

The city will go through the motions as part of the environmental impact report for North Newhall, but you don't have to be an engineer to understand the "practicality" of bridging over or tunneling under the tracks at Lyons. Either way, you'd have to start back at Newhall Avenue, and in the process you'd wipe out the north end of Old Town, not to mention the new library site that the city just purchased.

The city's environmental documents will recommend an at-grade crossing at Lyons, followed by several months of debate at Planning Commission and City Council meetings, followed by a few years of litigation when opponents sue over the "danger" posed by a new at-grade crossing.

Can you say Gate-King?



THE NEW LIBRARY TO BE BUILT IN OLD TOWN NEWHALL WILL BE MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO BORROW BOOKS. IT IS ENVISIONED AS A COMMUNITY CENTERPIECE AND GATHERING PLACE.

## Library, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

viewable from several directions.”

The architects who are chosen will continue to reference the Specific Plan, meet with members of county library and city staff, work with ad-hoc committees and share their ideas during public participation meetings designed especially to garner input from *you*.

The completion of this library will be a community success.

The library will not just be a building full of wonderful books. While this will not be the first library the city has built, it will be the first ground-up, clean-sheet-of-paper design of a next-generation library.

This new facility will be capable of serving a much wider audience, will become a new gathering place for residents and visitors, and eventually may serve as an anchor to a much larger commercial development with mixed uses including parking, retail shops, housing, entertainment venues and businesses.

The north end of Main Street will help set the standard for all of the public and private development in Old Town Newhall.

As you may know from reading The Gazette, over the last two years, staff has been working with property owners on the west side of old San Fernando Road and Spruce Street north of Lyons Avenue to negotiate purchases of parcels needed to

site the new library.

This process is necessarily slow because, while staff is motivated to move projects forward for the improvement of Main Street and Newhall in general, we also naturally want the best for the business and property owners who may be impacted by possible relocation to accommodate new development.

As of the date of this writing, the city's Redevelopment Agency has not once exercised its power of eminent domain. The much-preferred method of direct negotiation has resulted in satisfied sellers and business owners, with only the lawyers disappointed with the lack of court cases. The city is currently negotiating with the owner of the final parcel necessary to secure the entire site.

As you also may have read in The Gazette, the street name changes planned for Newhall have all been made legal. The City Council approved the change of San Fernando Road to "Newhall Avenue" from State Route 14 to 5th Street, and extended the name "Railroad Avenue" north from 11th Street all the way to Magic Mountain Parkway.

By the time you read this, all of the signs in the city should have been changed accordingly, and those on State Route 14 will not be far behind.

The design for the streetscape project is also near completion. The current budget calls for the block of Main Street between 6th and Market streets to be constructed first, with future phases to follow. City staff will be working with the business owners about how best to approach construction for the least amount of impact.

### Veterans History Project Party

## “Uncle Sam Wants You...Back!”



**DATE: Saturday, July 5**

**TIME: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**LOCATION: SCV Senior Center  
22900 Market Street**

**WHO: All Vets, their friends,  
and families**

**WHAT: Trip back to an old canteen with music of the era, food,  
color guard, mom's apple pie...**

**WHY: Celebration and sign ups for preserving veterans' and  
support civilians' stories with the Library of Congress**

**RSVP: • Robin Clough, 661-259-9444,  
SCV Senior Center;  
• Patty Robinson, 661-362-3922,  
College of the Canyons;  
or • Pat Saletore, 661-254-1275,  
SCV Historical Society**

