

MAYOR CAMERON SMYTH, MAYOR PRO TEM LAURENE WESTE  
COUNCILMEMBERS BOB KELLAR, MARSHA MCLEAN AND BILL MIRANDA INVITE

THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA TO

**PARTY LIKE IT'S 1987!**

# State of the City

FALL/WINTER 2017  
NEWSLETTER

City of  
SANTA CLARITA



SANTA CLARITA  
IS LIKE, TOTALLY  
AWESOME  
#30ANDTHRIVING

SANTA-CLARITA.COM



# MESSAGE

## FROM CITY MANAGER KEN STRIPLIN

### 30 Years of Partnerships

In the last 30 years the City of Santa Clarita has established an enviable quality of life. The City's award-winning schools, access to top-notch medical care, high levels of community engagement, special events, businesses, parks, extensive trail systems, arts, cultural and recreation programs are just a few of the reasons residents want to live in Santa Clarita.

Successfully forming a city and becoming a successful city both require the hard work and dedication of many people and many organizations. Santa Clarita is fortunate to have both in abundance. With the incredible support of our community partners in public safety, our non-profit agencies, the business community, elected officials and regional and state agencies, we are able to tackle the big issues and continue a tradition of a safe, healthy and sustainable City.

The next few pages feature some of these key partnerships. Our City is fortunate to have so many partners that deserve to be recognized that it would take several newsletters to highlight them all. Please see some of our partners in the article to the right. We send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has played a role in making our City what it is today.

We will continue to celebrate 30 years of cityhood with special events, contests and more as we near the big day on December 15. Please visit [santa-clarita.com/30years](http://santa-clarita.com/30years) for more information.

Sincerely,

**Ken Striplin**  
City Manager  
[kstriplin@santa-clarita.com](mailto:kstriplin@santa-clarita.com)

City of  
SANTA CLARITA

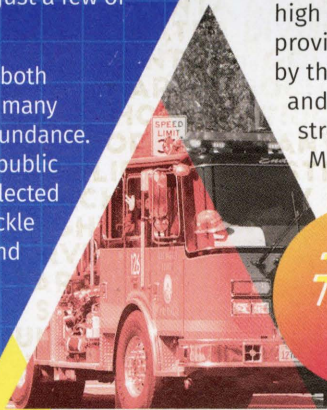


# 30

## YEARS of PARTNERSHIPS

### City Council

From charting the course for our very first days of cityhood, to maintaining the high quality of life those early decisions led to – our **Santa Clarita City Council** has provided direction, policy and leadership. The 17 men and women who were chosen by the community to lead us over the last 30 years have dedicated countless hours and waged battles to protect our community, all while keeping an eye on creating a strong, prosperous future for the City of Santa Clarita. Thank you to our honorable Mayor and City Council for all they have done, and continue to do for our City.



# #1

### Public Safety

They are the men and women who keep our City safe, whether it is by stopping criminals and enforcing speed limits or knocking down brush fires. Santa Clarita is consistently ranked as one of the safest cities in the country thanks to the work they do.



# #2

### Commissions

The commissions appointed by our City Council are responsible for making recommendations on everything from land use and land development, to parks and recreation, to deciding what elements should be included in the Arts Master Plan.

# #3

### Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Kathryn Barger Fifth District

Being that Santa Clarita is the third largest city in Los Angeles County and entirely encompassed by unincorporated areas, the City has a valuable and vital partner in the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger.



# #4

### Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital

Established in 1975, and 12 years older than the City, our local hospital provides top-notch care customized to our community. Henry Mayo conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years to better understand residents' needs and assist with planning activities and developing a community benefit plan to improve the health of the locals it serves.





#5

## Media

The Santa Clarita Valley is fortunate to have a strong local media base that provides breaking news coverage, emergency information, stunning visuals, event coverage and an unparalleled historic snapshot of our community that will be available for future generations.



#6

## Clubs/Committees

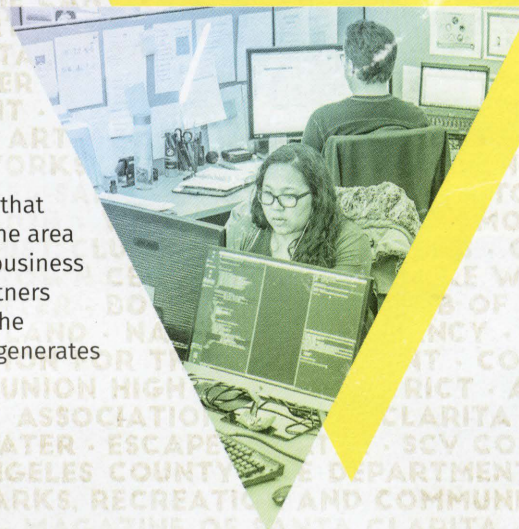
For a City of more than 225,000 residents, Santa Clarita has a tight-knit community with many clubs, organizations and committees working diligently to offer services, support, events and resources to residents. These groups do everything from planning our long-running and patriotically popular Fourth of July parade to organizing local literacy events at our libraries and chronicling our rich Western heritage.



#7

## Business Organizations

Business is booming in Santa Clarita thanks to the many networking groups that offer resources and support to startups, work to attract new businesses to the area and provide support to current organizations. Being voted one of the most business friendly cities in Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita has many community partners to thank, from the Old Town Newhall Association who plays a major role in the revitalization of the area, to the Santa Clarita Auto Dealers Association who generates millions in tax revenue every year.



#8

## Nonprofits

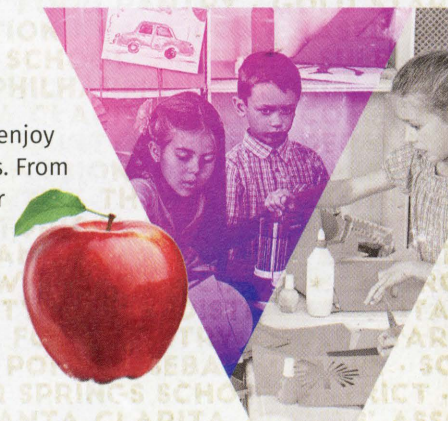
Caring for our neighbors in need, the environment and our community as a whole has always been a priority. This can be seen in the more than 150 nonprofits in the Santa Clarita Valley. We are fortunate to live in a city where so many residents give freely of their time and money to help others.



#9

## Schools

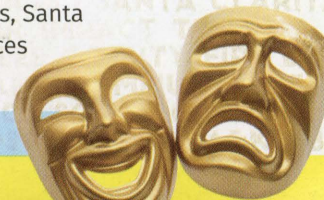
Residents would not experience the high quality of life we enjoy in Santa Clarita without our exceptional education partners. From the diverse offerings of higher education institutions to our award-winning school districts, Santa Clarita students will be academically prepared to take on the world.



#10

## Theatres/Arts

With the revitalization of Old Town Newhall, the premier arts district in the City, several galleries and a wide range of artistic organizations, Santa Clarita residents benefit from the creative economy and experiences provided by the arts community.





# CITY UPDATES



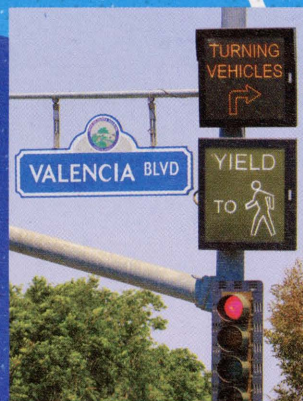
## WAYFINDING SIGNS

Wayfinding signs have been installed throughout the City's pedestrian, bikeway and trail network. There are a total of 168 new signs, some replacing old trail signs. The signs will make it easier for residents and visitors to navigate routes to key city destinations, such as a Metrolink station or nearby library. The signs include directional details and distance, allowing residents to explore new places with confidence!



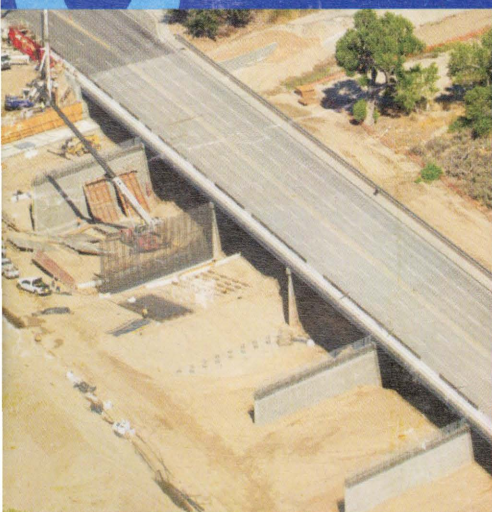
## OLD TOWN NEWHALL PARKING STRUCTURE

The Old Town Newhall Parking Structure is being built at the corner of 9th Street and Railroad Avenue in Old Town Newhall. Once the City-managed structure is completed, it will consist of 372 public parking spaces! The Old Town Newhall Parking Structure is one of three monumental projects planned for the City's "Redevelopment Block," located at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Lyons Avenue. Construction on the parking structure is expected to be completed by spring 2018.



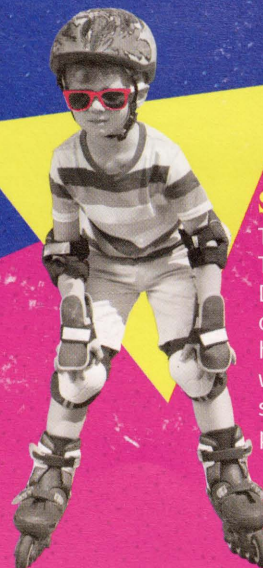
## YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS BLANK OUT SIGNS

Yield to Pedestrians blank out signs have been installed at the intersection of McBean Parkway and Orchard Village Road, Magic Mountain Parkway and Railroad Avenue and McBean Parkway and Town Center Drive. Only activated when a pedestrian hits a button, these signs have proven in studies to increase the yield rate of motorists, making it safer for residents to cross the street.



## NEWHALL RANCH ROAD BRIDGE WIDENING

Construction has started on the Newhall Ranch Road Bridge Widening project! Demolition work on the south side of the bridge began in June. Foundation work for the pier walls is nearly complete and the pier walls are being installed. Crews restriped the bridge in early June to allow traffic to remain open as usual during the construction period (three lanes in each direction). Once completed, this bridge will have two more traffic lanes, for a total of four lanes in each direction, a raised median, protected pedestrian walkway, bike path and new trail connections! The project is scheduled for completion by October 2018.



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City has been awarded a \$160,000 Active Transportation Program grant through the California Department of Transportation for development of a Safe Routes to School plan for all the junior high and high schools within the City. This plan will identify improvements and programs for each school site and adjacent neighborhoods that would promote non-motorized forms of transportation and provide increased walking and biking accessibility and safety. The plan will also provide schools with education and encouragement materials to teach and promote pedestrian and bicycle safety.





## PARK UPGRADES

The City of Santa Clarita maintains 34 beautiful parks to ensure residents experience a fun and SAFE time with their family. Examples of upgrades that were completed this year include resurfaced sport courts - one basketball court in Santa Clarita Park, one basketball court in Valencia Glen Park and one basketball court in Begonias Lane Park. In addition, old rubber play area surfaces were removed and replaced at Alméndra Park, Santa Clarita Park and Circle J Ranch Park. Creekview Park has also received new shade structures over the play area.



# MESSAGE

## FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT LEWIS

As your new Chief of Police, with 32 years on the force, and a long-time resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, I am committed to serving others and keeping our community safe. You may have noticed, since I took command in April, things have been a little different. Following the mandate set forth by the City, and working closely with Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station personnel, we are taking a firm, proactive stance on crime.

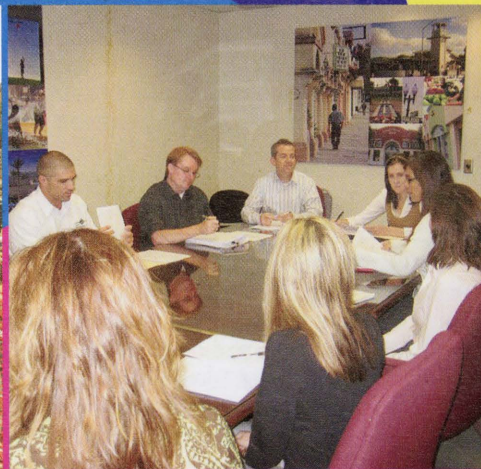
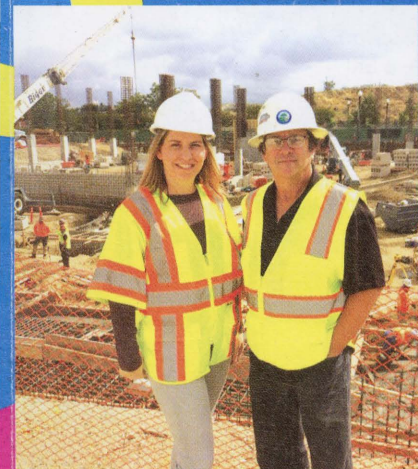
There are many issues we are facing head on, but the three that have risen to the top are heroin/opiate use, overall crime reduction and traffic safety.

This spring saw a string of dangerous overdoses in our City, leading to several hospitalizations and one death. Using department resources and teaming up with our valuable local and regional partners, we made a push to get the drugs off our City streets and put the drug dealers in jail. Our deputies are also now trained to administer Narcan®, a lifesaving drug that immediately reverses effects of an opioid overdose. By working with the county, Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital, local treatment facilities and other community resources, we are leading the fight against heroin in Santa Clarita.

Our Crime Prevention Unit is back on the streets, utilizing strategies to reduce crime in our City. One of those tactics is mission specific patrols in areas of recent criminal activity, which have proven effective, and we've even caught criminals in the act.

We now have even more resources devoted to stopping reckless drivers. There are six motor deputies on our streets citing drivers who make the choice to speed, drive distracted or not follow the rules of the road.

The loss of even one life to drugs or traffic collisions is one too many in the eyes of your protectors. I would like to thank the community for its support. Our sheriff's deputies are out there every day working hard to keep you safe. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the last seven months and I look forward to working together to cut crime even further in Santa Clarita.



The shocking truth about teen heroin use in Santa Clarita

**H E R** the high is a lie  
**K I L L S . o r g**  
**N**

## AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

This year the City of Santa Clarita won two prestigious **League of California Cities Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence**.

## EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

City employees are offered multiple opportunities to cultivate their skills and improve their customer service. Employee programs include a 1:1 Mentoring Program, 18-month Leadership Academy and other training and job shadowing opportunities. Thanks to the effectiveness of the City's employee development programs, the Santa Clarita community will continue to receive the same high level of customer service from well-trained, highly skilled staff at all levels of the City's organization.

## HEROIN KILLS PROGRAM

Heroin Kills is a multi-faceted campaign that raises awareness of heroin use in Santa Clarita in an effort to stop the drug from destroying local families. Focus groups, outreach events and the annual Heroin Kills symposium have led to teenagers and parents increasing their knowledge of the dangers of drug use and have resulted in a reduction in the amount of heroin-related deaths in Santa Clarita.



# FALL EVENTS

## VETERANS DAY

Join the Santa Clarita City Council for a pair of events to honor veterans and currently-serving military members. The Veterans Historical Committee will unveil the new Fallen Warriors Monument on Wednesday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m. and the City's annual Veterans Day Ceremony, put on by the SCV Chapter 91 Blue Star Moms, Blue Star Moms of the Canyons Chapter 82, Prayer Angels for the Military and the Knights of Columbus, will take place on Saturday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. Both events will be at the Veterans Historical Plaza in Old Town Newhall. [Santa-Clarita.com/Events](http://Santa-Clarita.com/Events)

## SANTA CLARITA MARATHON

The 22nd Annual Santa Clarita Marathon, presented by Parkway Motorcars, will officially get underway the morning of Sunday, November 5. Athletes from around the world will once again descend upon Santa Clarita to test their limits on the 26.2-mile, Boston Qualifier course. Race weekend will feature a full marathon, a half marathon, a 5K run, the annual Mayor's Walk, and a Kid K run. A free Health and Fitness Expo will be held on Saturday, November 4. Learn more and sign up to volunteer!

[SCMarathon.org](http://SCMarathon.org)

## LIGHT UP MAIN STREET

Hark! How the bells, sweet silver bells all seem to say, "Throw cares away!" Old Town Newhall will once again be transformed into a holiday masterpiece during the City's annual Light Up Main Street event on Saturday, November 18. Kick off the holiday season with festive dance and musical performances from local groups and participate in the Sip N' Shop event from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at businesses in Old Town Newhall. Performances begin at 6:00 p.m. and the thousands of lights and 23-foot tall Christmas tree will be illuminated at 7:00 p.m. [OldTownNewhall.com](http://OldTownNewhall.com)

## WINTER THURSDAYS@NEWHALL

The popular Thursdays@Newhall series, presented by Galpin Subaru, will continue through the winter months, from November through February, by highlighting local talent each week. The lineup will include the 10 by 10 variety night, Note by Note singer-songwriter night, a monthly gallery reception at The MAIN and the ARTree Speaker Series. [ThursdaysAtNewhall.com](http://ThursdaysAtNewhall.com)

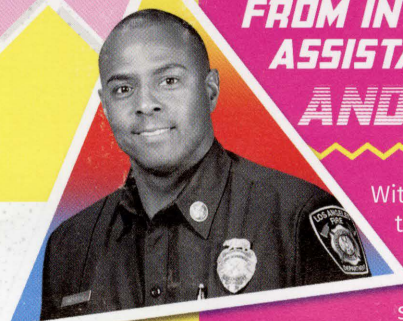






## HOMETOWN HEROES MILITARY BANNER PROGRAM

The City's Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program honors currently serving, active military personnel from the United States Armed Forces from the Santa Clarita Valley. Custom streetlight pole banners with pictures, names and titles of the honorees decorate City streets three times a year: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day. Residents or organizations interested in ordering a banner can do so at any time at [Santa-Clarita.com/Heroes](http://Santa-Clarita.com/Heroes).



## MESSAGE FROM INTERIM ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF ANDERSON MACKEY

With the fall season upon us, it's time to take a look at emergency preparedness. We urge you and your family to take appropriate steps in planning for the inevitable earthquake, brush fire, lengthy power outage, or any other disaster that takes you by surprise.

To make things easier, preparing yourself can be broken down into weekly activities:

### WEEK 1

#### Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends

- Make an Emergency Plan, including evacuation routes.
- Build a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area.
- Review your insurance coverage.
- Plan financially for the possibility of a disaster.

### WEEK 2

#### Plan to Help Your Neighbors and Community

- Learn skills you need to help yourself and others until assistance arrives.
- Learn about utility safety.
- Sign up for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.

### WEEK 3

#### Practice and Build Out Your Plans

- Hold a family evacuation drill.
- Complete an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.
- Maintain emergency savings.
- Know how to access community resources.

### WEEK 4

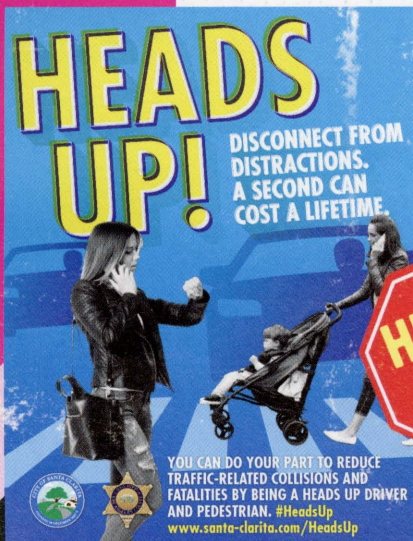
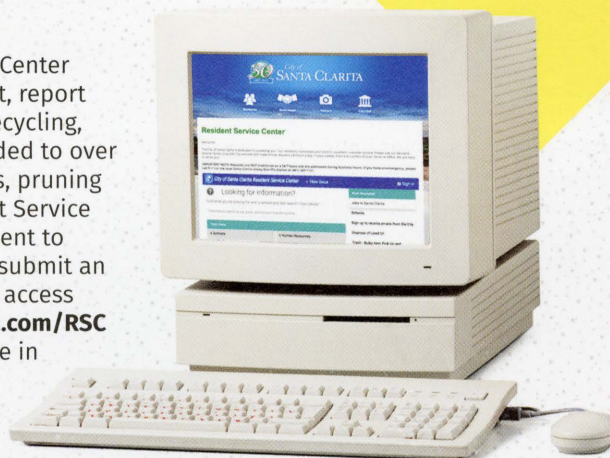
#### Get Involved in Something Larger!

- Share your newfound knowledge with your neighbors.
- Organize your neighborhood so that you are all prepared to take care of one another.

Please visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) for toolkits and checklists to help you along the way. In the event of a disaster, your local firefighters will be overwhelmed and may not be readily available to help you. For this reason, we ask you to partner with us by ensuring that your family is always prepared.

## RESIDENT SERVICE CENTER

We want to hear from you! Our Resident Service Center makes it easy for you to submit a service request, report graffiti, or even ask questions about potholes, recycling, recreation and more. Last year, City staff responded to over 21,900 requests including removal of illegal signs, pruning of trees and trail maintenance. Through Resident Service Center you can request for the sheriff's department to keep an eye on your home while on vacation or submit an event to the City's Community Calendar. You can access Resident Service Center by visiting [Santa-Clarita.com/RSC](http://Santa-Clarita.com/RSC) or through the Santa Clarita Mobile App available in the App Store and Google Play.



## HEADS UP

The City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station have launched a new campaign to educate drivers and pedestrians on road safety. Heads Up implores residents in Santa Clarita to watch for people in crosswalks and for pedestrians to exercise caution when crossing streets. Together we can all make Santa Clarita a safer place for drivers, pedestrians and children!

[Santa-Clarita.com/HeadsUp](http://Santa-Clarita.com/HeadsUp)

YOU CAN DO YOUR PART TO REDUCE TRAFFIC-RELATED COLLISIONS AND FATALITIES BY BEING A HEADS UP DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN. #HeadsUp  
[www.santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp](http://www.santa-clarita.com/HeadsUp)



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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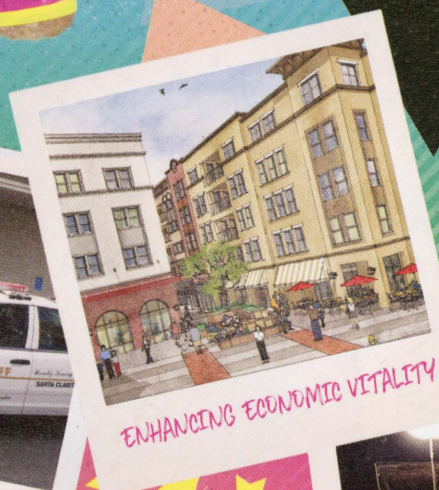
## SAMMY CLARITA

In celebration of the City's 30th birthday, a new friend has come to town. Sammy Clarita, the chestnut-colored stuffed animal horse, made his first appearance on April 5, 2017, just in time for the 24th Annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival. Since then, he's been enjoying all of Santa Clarita's amenities and programs. If you've been searching for the playful pony, but haven't gotten your Sammy selfie, don't worry! There are several upcoming local events Sammy plans to attend. Don't forget, clues as to Sammy's whereabouts are posted on the City's Instagram account, so be sure to follow him there!  
**@CityofSantaClarita**



## STAY INFORMED WITH SANTA CLARITA 2020

Santa Clarita 2020 is the City's five-year strategic plan used to guide the City's major work efforts. The plan includes over 160 different projects all with the goal of improving Santa Clarita's quality of life. To get the latest updates on the Santa Clarita 2020 plan, please visit **SantaClarita2020.com**.



Follow us on social media to stay up to date with the City of Santa Clarita!  
[santa-clarita.com/Social](https://www.santa-clarita.com/Social)



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