



The Gazette.

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005

YEAR 11, NUMBER 1

A Specific Plan For Newhall.



A RENDERING FROM THE SPECIFIC PLAN.

By **CAMERON SMYTH,**
Mayor of Newhall And
Neighboring Communities.

**COMMUNITY IS PLANNING
FOR NEWHALL'S FUTURE.**

**Main Street Will Be The
Highlight Of A More
Cohesive Downtown Area.**

It doesn't take a new census to show that the city of Santa Clarita is growing at a rapid pace. New commercial and residential developments are being constructed throughout the valley, and the city is

working hard to make sure local parks, roads and city services can keep up with growing demand. The city realizes that amid the new development is a rare opportunity to preserve the rich history and character of what already exists.

The city is currently working diligently to revitalize Old Town Newhall, and with the participation of residents, businesses and community leaders, has created a draft Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.

The draft Downtown Newhall Specific Plan came as the result of an intense public process that included public meetings, field trips to comparable places, two char-

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Old Town Newhall Is Set For The Holidays.

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

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN.

**Children's Parade Ends In
Snow Party At Hart Park.**

The Metrolink Toy Train's arrival at the Jan Heidt Metrolink Station on Friday, November 25, will kick off the holiday season in Old Town Newhall. The brightly illuminated train showcases a musical production including the arrival of Santa Claus. Spectators are urged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for distribution by the Los Angeles Fire Department during the holidays.

The Newhall Redevelopment Committee is hosting an Old Town holiday event December 9 and 10 on Walnut Street. The Veterans Historical Plaza will be the site of a traditional holiday sing-a-long on Friday, December 9, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to sign holiday cards that will be mailed to our troops overseas. Immediately afterward, there will be holiday story-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.



What's In A Name?

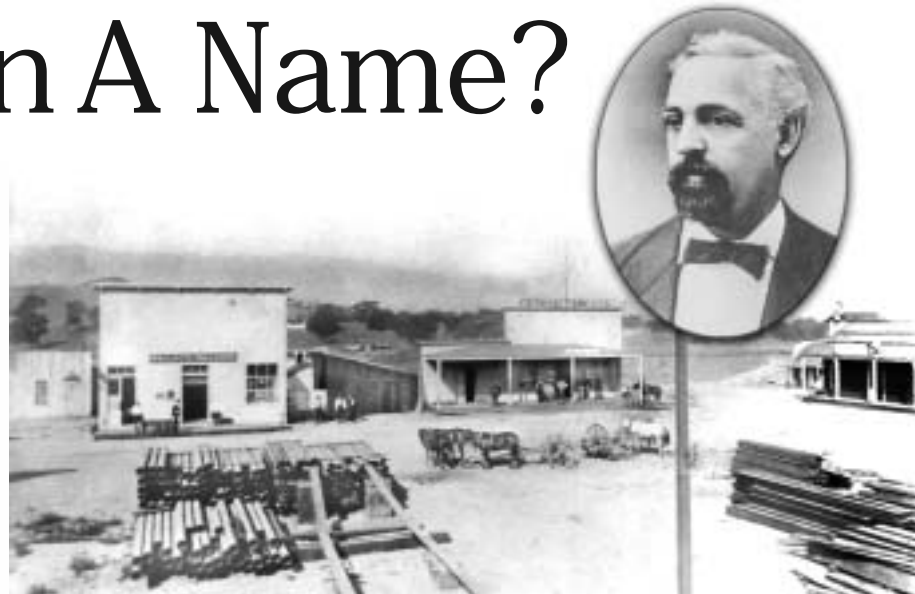
By **PAT SALETORE,**
Executive Director,
Santa Clarita Valley
Historical Society.

**This '49er Struck It Rich —
But Not In The Gold Fields.**

You can hardly spend even a day in Santa Clarita without running across the name, "Newhall." And yet, many residents of Santa Clarita have no idea why. The name "Henry Mayo Newhall" conjures up a collective picture of a hospital.

Henry Mayo Newhall is a historical figure who deserves to be remembered by the people of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Henry was born to an old family — but not "old money" — in Saugus, Massachusetts, in 1825. He left his home to make his fortune and found a talent for auctioneering. Wherever he seemed to go and whatever he tried to do for a living, he never found anything that did better for him — and he tried a few.



**THE OLDEST KNOWN PHOTO OF DOWNTOWN NEWHALL
AFTER IT MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION IN 1878.
RAILROAD AVENUE LOOKING WEST. INSET: HENRY NEWHALL.**

When gold was found in California, he left his new wife and went off for the gold fields with high anticipation, thinking like all the other "miners" that he would come back in a few weeks, rich. Needless to say, it didn't pay off. He ended up in San Francisco destitute, with only a trunk full of personal effects. He couldn't eat that, and it sure

wouldn't take him home, so he got up on a box and auctioned them off.

Henry soon found that there was more money selling goods to the men suffering from gold fever than there was in having gold fever himself. He made a fortune doing just that. Ultimately he sent for his wife and raised

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Old Town Newhall Gazette.

**Post Office Box 802993
Santa Clarita, Ca. 91380**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

EDITORIAL.

A Long Road To Recovery.

Yes, it's back. No, you didn't miss an issue, if the last one you saw was in the summer of 1998. It's hard to believe it has been more than seven years since the last publication of the Old Town Newhall Gazette.

When we left off, the fun was just beginning. Railroad Avenue was just being reopened. There was no Newhall Metrolink Station. The Canyon Theatre building was an unfunded dream. Community Center kids were boxing and folklorico dancing in a leaky, vermin-infested warehouse. (OK, they're still in the same warehouse, but wait till next month.) Graffiti and loitering gave outsiders the sense that it wasn't safe to shop on San Fernando Road. Vacancies were up. Property values were actually going down, while they were on the rise everywhere else in Santa Clarita.

In a word, Newhall was desperate. Business owners were barely hanging on. Many gave up. The old Downtown Newhall Merchants Association was down to two guys, then one, then none.

The transformation in these past seven years is nothing short of amazing.

Today you'd be hard-pressed to find a vacancy on San Fernando Road. Property values are going nuts and buyers are beating down the doors to get in. Old-fashioned streetlights illuminate Railroad Avenue for through-traffic. Buses ferry passengers to the Metrolink. The Canyon Theatre anchors a budding arts district that already includes a second performing arts venue and a showcase for painters, with an independent movie house on the way. Today not one but two active merchants' associations are swelling their ranks.

Special festivals and a seasonal Farmer's Market and a park honoring the nation's war veterans bring thousands of Santa Claritans to downtown Newhall. There they discover new restaurants and bakeries and antique shops amid the venerable holdouts that no economic storm could put asunder, such as The Way Station and Newhall Hardware.

Downtown property owners have put up new façades and screened their back lots with monetary assistance from the city. Loiterers have moved to the periphery. Graffiti vanishes in a flash. San Fernando Road is once again a safe place for East Newhall residents to shop for groceries, and soon they'll have a bigger Treserras supermarket with actual parking spaces!

All of this and so much more has happened in the last seven years that you can't help but look cross-eyed when you hear somebody ask today, in 2005, "Is redevelopment really going to happen?" Or, "Is the city really serious this time?" Or, in the alternative, "Why doesn't the city just leave Newhall alone?"

Look around you. Redevelopment happened. And considering the millions of dollars the city has put into the Old Town since 1996, when it formed the Newhall Redevelopment Committee — mostly with state and federal money, to lessen the impact on local taxpayers — it's safe to say the city is serious. And that none of it would have happened *without* city intervention.

The story of Newhall is no different from that of any small town in America that has experienced the kind of population



THEN AND NOW: CANYON THEATRE GUILD BUILDING IN 1997 AND TODAY.

explosion Santa Clarita has seen in the last few decades.

Nearly a hundred years after Henry Mayo Newhall incited the formation of a town, his successors built another town on the outskirts of the original. Valencia became the upscale place to live and the trendy place to shop. With apologies to Ross Perot, that "giant sucking sound" was the money leaving Newhall when Safeway transplanted itself from San Fernando Road to the Old Orchard Shopping Center. Locals abandoned Newhall Pharmacy and flocked to the great, big Thrifty drug store — complete with a copy of the old pharmacy's ice-cream counter. The Sears catalog store was the neatest thing; you could order direct from the factory and have a washing machine delivered to your door. There was even Kinney Shoes and Holiday Hardware for San Fernando Valley transplants who never ventured outside of Valencia.

The heroic efforts of the old Downtown Newhall Merchants Association, although well received, proved to be simply too little, too late. Los Angeles County had already shifted police and other government services to the corner of Valencia Boulevard and Magic Mountain Parkway. When the Ford and Chevrolet dealerships followed, Newhall was all finished.

Then came a momentous event. In 1987 the citizens of Santa Clarita formed a city.

Now, for the first time, local residents could directly control their municipal destiny. Now, for the first time,

local residents could make their own financial and land-use decisions.

It can fairly be said that the 1994 earthquake heightened the urgency and the political expedience of revitalizing Newhall, but the truth is, plans were already afoot in 1993 for an assault on Newhall's problems.

The residents of Santa Clarita never forgot that Newhall was their central business district. They weren't willing to let their historic home, the heart of the community, the special place that made Santa Clarita unique among the urbanized, cookie-cutter communities of America, slip away from them.

It is to the hundreds of people — representing every demographic, cultural and economic interest — who showed up again and again in that vermin-infested Community Center for a series of city-led meetings in 1995 and 1996 that we owe the rebirth of Newhall. It was they who said how they wanted their Newhall to change. It was they who said what they wanted their Newhall to look like. It was they who said what they wanted their Newhall to be.

For nearly a decade, the city of Santa Clarita has been working off of the blueprint that grew out of those meetings. Out of that blueprint grew all of the changes we've seen, from the Metrolink Station to the Farmer's Market to the Spanish, Victorian and Western storefront designs.

Now the city is preparing to take the next step and give Old Town Newhall a real, fighting chance to become

everything it can be.

As of this writing, on November 8 the City Council is scheduled to consider the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, a document that will enable the city to make all of the changes the citizens of Newhall said they wanted a decade ago, and repeated in a series of meetings late last year.

The new plan will allow the type of upstairs living quarters over ground-floor retail shops that are iconic of any Old Town. The plan will enable the city to change the design of San Fernando Road so it feels more like a place where you'd want to stroll from shop to shop on a weekend afternoon — complete with a sensible parking configuration.

Already the city has purchased property and is identifying developers to build some of the public structures outlined in the Specific Plan, such as a community building on the site of the abandoned gas station at San Fernando and Lyons, and a child-

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The Gazette.

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www.oldtownnewhall.com

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
THE SIGNAL NEWSPAPER.

At Work For Newhall.

By **PHILIP ELLIS,**
Chairman, Newhall
Redevelopment Committee.

**Committee Will Oversee
Specific Plan In Practice.**

The Newhall Redevelopment Committee was established as an advisory body to the Santa Clarita Redevelopment Agency. Its main duties are to advise on all land-use applications and to recommend the adoption of development standards within the redevelopment area. In addition, the committee interprets and conveys the needs of the public regarding the redevelopment area to the agency and to the city manager.

The Newhall Redevelopment Committee is a thirteen-member panel appointed by the members of the Redevelopment Agency board (the five Santa Clarita City Council members) for four-year terms. The committee meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Century Room on the first floor of Santa Clarita City Hall.

Prior to the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the city of Santa Clarita adopted the Newhall Special Standards District Design Guidelines. The Special Standards District encompassed the core downtown Newhall area that is currently



included in the Specific Plan. In conjunction with the Design Guidelines, the Redevelopment Agency set up façade and parking lot improvement programs.

The Façade Improvement Program created an avenue for property owners and businesses to work in partnership with the Redevelopment Agency to improve the physical appearance of buildings with the downtown Newhall commercial core. This program utilized redevelopment funds to promote façade and signage improvements throughout the area. The Parking Lot Improvement Program was created for similar goals — to improve the physical appearance of parking lots and back fencing in the district.

Always interested in attracting more people to visit the Newhall area, the Redevelopment Committee has been instrumental in organizing special events including the Old Town Newhall Street Fair, the Children's Holiday Parade and the Old Town Newhall Farmers Market.

The Old Town Newhall Street Fair has successfully grown into the Santa Clarita Street Art Festival, held the

first weekend in October along San Fernando Road. This chalk art festival includes live bands, skateboard demonstrations, outdoor movies, a carnival and arts and crafts — and it's a fun event for the entire family.

The Children's Holiday Parade is returning to Walnut Street on Saturday, December 10. Another fun holiday tradition is the arrival of the Metrolink Toy Train at the Jan Heidt-Newhall Metrolink Station on Friday, November 25.

Currently on winter hiatus is the Old Town Newhall Farmers Market, which will return in the spring to the downtown area on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fruits, vegetables, baked goods, flowers, ready-to-eat foods and live music join together to create not just a great place to shop, but also a lively social experience.

The Redevelopment Committee members are looking forward to the implementation of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. This plan contains zoning changes that should be incentive to new building in the downtown Newhall area. It also encompasses an environmental impact report that will ease new building in the redevelopment area.

The Redevelopment Committee will watch over the Specific Plan's fulfillment, and will review new development on sites immediately outside the plan's coverage for compatibility.

NEWHALL REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Philip Ellis, Chairman
Larry Bird, Vice Chairman

John Ahrens
Amparo Cevallos
Ron Esposito
John Grannis

Duane Harte
Melissa Pillmear
Carol Rock

Susan Shapiro
Robert Spierer
Randal Winter
Leon Worden

CALENDAR.

November 7-14
Call Box Office
for dates & showtimes

The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe
Canyon Theatre Guild
24242 San Fernando Road
Box Office: 661/799-2702

November 8
6 p.m. (tentative)

Downtown Newhall Specific Plan
City Council Meeting
23920 W. Valencia Boulevard

November 12

Annual Art Classic
Santa Clarita Artists Association
24333 San Fernando Road
Info: 661/222-7328

**November 18
through December 23**
weekends
Call Box Office
for dates & showtimes

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate
Townswomen's Guild Dramatic
Society's Production of A Christmas
Carol
Repertory East Playhouse
24266 San Fernando Road
Box Office: 661/288-0000

**November 24
through December 22**
Call Box Office
for dates & showtimes

A Christmas Carol
Canyon Theatre Guild
24242 San Fernando Road
Box Office: 661/799-2702

December 9
6p-7:30p

Old Town Holiday
Veterans Memorial Plaza
24275 N. Walnut Avenue

7:30p-9p

Refreshments & Storytelling
Yellow Victorian
Walnut & Lyons

December 10
9a-3p

Holiday Children's Parade
Walnut & Lyons to Hart Park
Info: 661/255-4318

7:30p-10:30p

Cowboys & Carols in the Mansion
William S. Hart Museum at Hart Park
24151 San Fernando Road
Info: 661/254-4584

December 11
12p-4p

SCV Historical Society
Celebrates 30th Anniversary
Heritage Junction at Hart Park
24101 San Fernando Road
Info: 661/254-1275

December 15
5p-10p

SCV Chamber of Commerce
Grand Opening/Holiday Party
Repertory East Playhouse
24266 San Fernando Road
Box Office: 661/288-0000

Editorial, CONT.

FROM PAGE 2.

ren's museum at San Fernando and 5th Street.

Now as before, with the last plan, the Old Town Newhall Gazette intends to be there, with a new edition roughly every two months.

And the Specific Plan won't be the end of it. It's somewhat ironic that just as Newhall is coming back to life, the very shopping center that precipitated its decline is in dire

straits, as anyone who has visited the Old Orchard Shopping Center lately knows. The neighborhood cannot long abide the boarding up of its anchor store, the old Safeway (most recently Albertsons).

Neither can the broader community afford it. The Old Orchard Shopping Center is in the redevelopment zone, which extends west to Interstate 5, north to Magic Mountain Parkway and south to Highway 14. Depressed values in any part of the redevelopment zone mean fewer tax dollars are coming in to improve the area.

Lyons Avenue and to a lesser extent Soledad Canyon Road in Canyon Country were victims of another "giant sucking sound" in the 1990s when price-competitive discounters like Wal-Mart and trendier shopping alternatives like the Valencia Town Center drew the dollars away. Today, vacancies are up and property values are down along much of Lyons, where nontaxable medical offices have replaced many tax-generating retailers.

Blight spreads. It cannot be allowed to fester as it did on San Fernando Road. And it doesn't go away on its own.

If you're new to town or you don't remember the old Gazette, it is an independent vehicle with a clear purpose. It is published by Old Town Newhall USA, a not-for-profit organization whose purpose, quite simply, is to advocate the revitalization of Newhall.

The Gazette is neither a product of the city of Santa Clarita nor The Signal, although both are partners in its production. The city provides some of the news copy so you can learn directly from the source what is happening; and The Signal handles the press

run and offsets its production costs with advertising. (Call The Signal to place an ad in The Gazette.)

The Gazette also welcomes *your* participation. If you'd like to fire off a letter to the editor or submit a press release for an organization that's active in Old Town Newhall, your best bet is to send it by e-mail to letters@oldtownnewhall.com, or visit www.oldtownnewhall.com on the Internet.

Editorials like the one you're reading now are solely the opinion of the Old Town Newhall Gazette.

Plan, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

rettes and an extended period of public comment. It is designed to be an outline of the projects the city hopes to carry out in the Old Town Newhall area in the next twenty years.

It is important to not only energize the area, but also to preserve the rich history of Old Town Newhall. Our community's roots are of utmost importance to the community and to the city. It is hoped that by carrying out the revitalization plan, the Old Town Newhall area can draw in visitors while sustaining already established businesses and residents.

By following the draft Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the city hopes to create an area of civic pride — an area that would provide convenient access to local goods and services without the need for multiple stops at disconnected shopping centers. To create a more cohesive feel for the area, the city will strive for a unified look for all the businesses and storefronts.

More than that, the city plans to create a Main Street along what is currently San Fernando Road, between Lyons Avenue and Pine Street. An emphasis has been placed on designing attractive and functional pedestrian-oriented thoroughfares, of which Main Street will be the highlight.

The new Main Street will be two lanes wide and will incorporate on-street slant parking to maximize accessibility to businesses. Under the Specific Plan, Old Town Newhall has been designed to support a more walkable community, and the city intends to construct convenient parking structures in the surrounding area to ease traffic congestion.

Access to the beautiful 265-acre Hart Park will be featured prominently under the new plan, as the city strives to maintain a close connection with nature amid a bustling downtown. Pedestrian and vehicular access to the park will be improved, as will visibility into the park from Newhall Avenue. The goal will be to create a seamless connection to both the suburban and natural surroundings of the Old Town Newhall area.



CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF A 'PARK ONCE' PARKING STRUCTURE WITH RETAIL FRONTAGE.



NEW COURTYARD HOUSING AT MARKET AND PINE.



A MORE PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY STREETScape.

Retail businesses along Main Street will be encouraged to develop above-store residential areas to allow for a truly mixed-use community. The city also hopes to establish a brand new museum and updated library to rejuvenate the area and benefit the whole of Santa Clarita.

An outdoor plaza and *mercado* have also been proposed as part of the plan. No such feature currently exists within the city, and it is hoped that this new area will draw in a variety of merchants offering fresh produce and other specialty items such as food, clothing and cafés.

At the plan's core, the city intends to provide a rich set of public spaces and public facilities that will encourage the community to become civically engaged. Additionally, a more concentrated and energetic area will facilitate renewed economic growth, and will



WHAT A NEW LIBRARY COULD LOOK LIKE.

help Old Town Newhall to become much more economically viable — something of interest to the entire community. New development will sit side-by-side with existing features to create a vibrant,

self-sustaining city center.

Ultimately, the city hopes to provide an overall landscape in keeping with the traditional climate of Newhall so that future generations will be able to enjoy the unique

culture that makes Old Town Newhall special to the city of Santa Clarita.

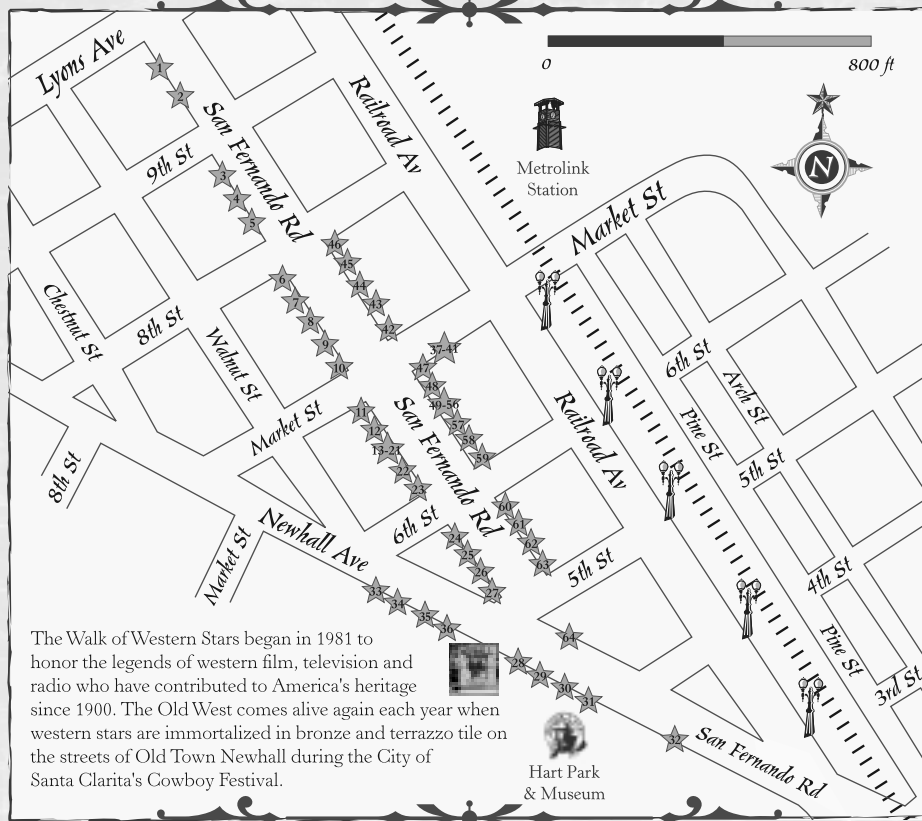
To take a look at the full draft Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, follow the link from www.oldtownnewhall.com.

Walk The Western Walk.



Stars 1-32

- ★ Virginia Mayo - 1992
- ★ Montie Montana - 1992
- ★ Robert Conrad - 1984
- ★ Andy Jauregui - 1983
- ★ Claude Akins - 1983
- ★ Pat Buttram - 1983
- ★ Tex Williams - 1983
- ★ Dale Evans - 1983
- ★ Roy Rogers - 1983
- ★ Tex Ritter - 1982
- ★ Eddie Dean - 1982
- ★ William Boyd - 2003
- ★ Bruce Dern - 2003
- ★ Riders in the Sky - 2003
- ★ Rex Allen - 1982
- ★ Buck Taylor - 2003
- ★ Powers Boothe - 2005
- ★ Wm. S. Hart - 1981
- ★ Harry Carey Jr. - 2005
- ★ Graham Greene - 2005
- ★ Tom Mix - 1981
- ★ Jack Williams - 2005
- ★ Gene Autry - 1981
- ★ Doug McClure - 1988/89
- ★ Hoot Gibson - 1988/89
- ★ Stuart Whitman - 1993
- ★ Dale Robertson - 1988/89
- ★ Morgan Woodward - 1990
- ★ George Montgomery - 1991
- ★ Bruce Boxleitner - 1990
- ★ Lee Horsley - 1990
- ★ Cliffie Stone - 1990



The Walk of Western Stars began in 1981 to honor the legends of western film, television and radio who have contributed to America's heritage since 1900. The Old West comes alive again each year when western stars are immortalized in bronze and terrazzo tile on the streets of Old Town Newhall during the City of Santa Clarita's Cowboy Festival.



Stars 33-64

- ★ Denver Pyle - 1991
- ★ Hugh O'Brien - 1991
- ★ Hoyt Axton - 1991
- ★ Jane Russell - 1992
- ★ Don Edwards - 2000
- ★ Linda Gray - 2001
- ★ John Schneider - 2002
- ★ Peggy Stewart - 2002
- ★ Alex Cord - 2002
- ★ Clint Walker - 1984
- ★ Clayton Moore - 1984
- ★ Peter Brown - 2000
- ★ John Wayne - 1984
- ★ Dennis Weaver - 1984
- ★ Herb Jeffries - 2001
- ★ Monte Hale - 1985/86
- ★ Keith Carradine - 2004
- ★ Melissa Gilbert - 2004
- ★ Richard Farnsworth - 2000
- ★ Wilford Brimley - 2001
- ★ Chuck Connors - 1986/86
- ★ Loren Janes - 2004
- ★ Buck Page - 2004
- ★ Iron Eyes Cody - 1985/86
- ★ Harry Carey Sr. - 1987
- ★ JoAnne Darcy - 2001
- ★ Jack Palance - 1993
- ★ Woody Strode - 1993
- ★ Ben Johnson - 19872
- ★ Amanda Blake - 1987
- ★ Katharine Ross - 1993
- ★ Sam Elliott - 1993

Originally produced by the Downtown Newhall Merchants Association, the annual Walk of Western Stars began in 1981 to honor the legends of Western film, television and radio who have contributed to America's — and Santa Clarita's — heritage since 1900.

The Old West comes alive again each year when Western stars are immortalized

in bronze and terrazzo tile on the streets of Old Town Newhall.

The city of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce proudly host the annual event that begins with a sidewalk dedication on the streets of Old Town Newhall and culminates with a Western-style dinner.

Western greats including Gene Aut-

ry, William S. Hart, Tom Mix, John Wayne, Amanda Blake, Jane Russell, Sam Elliot, Jack Palance, Dale Evans, Harry Carey Jr. and many, many more have celebrated the magic of the Old West at the annual gala.

Enjoy these wonderful sidewalk plaques that help keep the West alive as you stroll through Old Town Newhall.



Holidays,

CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

telling and refreshments in the yellow Victorian building on Walnut Street.

On Saturday, December 10, at 11 a.m., the Children's Holiday Parade will commence at the yellow Victorian building on Walnut Street. Local youth are encouraged to decorate their wagons, scooters, bicycles and pets, and join in the fun. The parade will end at Hart Park with a holiday celebration including snow, Santa Claus and refreshments. Awards will be presented to all participants.

In addition, the Friends of Hart Park will be hosting "Cowboys and Carols" in the

Hart Mansion with music and refreshments on Saturday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m., and the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will be hosting its 30th anniversary celebration with an open house on Sunday, December 11, from noon to 4 p.m.

Don't forget to attend Old Town Newhall's two live theaters during the holiday season. The Canyon Theatre Guild is presenting "A Christmas Carol" beginning November 24, and the Repertory East Playhouse will be showcasing "The Farmdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol" starting November 18.

Contact numbers for these events can be found in the event calendar on page 3.

Farmers Market Returns In Spring 2006.

The Old Town Newhall Farmers Market is on winter hiatus and will return in the spring of 2006. The Market, held Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., has drawn a large following of shoppers interested in fresh and organic vegetables and fruits, as well as flowers, herbs, bakery goods and homemade oils and soaps. A popular place for a quick dinner, the Market features tamales, tacos and sopas. Watch the Gazette for information on the spring reopening.



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CALL 661/259-1234 ext. 237

Shaping The Old Town Inside And Out.

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

Projects Directly Outside The Old Town District Will Help Transform The Area.

On the *inside*, outdoor cafés, theaters, parking structures, public gathering places and residential units above offices and shops on Main Street are integral components of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan that have been the subject of public meetings and news stories over the last year.

However, as much as the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan is expected to have a positive economic and social impact on the future of this historic area, many projects in various stages are happening *outside* and adjacent to Old Town Newhall that will have an equal contribution to the revitalization and redevelop-

ment of the area.

Most of these developments front or are visible from San Fernando Road, a corridor that serves as both a gateway to the city of Santa Clarita from State Route 14, as well as the gateway to the community of Newhall. The following four projects will uniquely complement the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan and will support the revitalization characteristics that the city will achieve in Old Town Newhall.

Gate-King Industrial Park.

This 500-acre development, approved in 2003, consists of 4.2 million square feet of commercial and industrial development southwest of Old Town Newhall. It is anticipated to bring 6,000 jobs, significantly increase the daytime population within the Old Town area, and provide needed public improvements.

Although no projects have yet broken ground, a few are expected to be under

construction within a year. This large-scale development, combined with the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, is intended to assist in transforming the Newhall community core.

North Newhall Property.

North of Old Town Newhall, at the northeast corner of San Fernando Road and 13th Street, is a vacant hundred-acre lot. In the past, the city has used this lot to park cars for the Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival.

Although no development proposals have been made, the new property owners have contacted the city about their interest in developing this site. It is currently zoned for a business park.

Tresierras Market.

At the corner of San Fernando Road and Carl Court, southeast of Old Town Newhall, Tresierras Market is

under construction for a second location in the Newhall community. This market will be part of a 57,537-square-foot retail shopping center. Starbucks and Subway are also expected to locate there.

The Master's College.

A portion of The Master's College campus sits above Old Town Newhall, peering down onto the Jan Heidt-Newhall Metrolink Station and the East Newhall community. The 95-acre college was founded in 1927 and has a student enrollment of 1,000.

The Master's College has submitted a proposed Master Plan to the city. Key components include the college shifting its vehicular access to Dockweiler Drive; a 55,000-square-foot chapel; a new, 120-bed dormitory; improved pedestrian linkages; increased parking; oak tree preservation; new recreational and open space amenities; and additional academic, administrative

and maintenance buildings.

The growth of The Master's College is expected to be harmonious with the redevelopment of Old Town Newhall, as many downtowns throughout the world have thrived in proximity to a college campus.

Community and stakeholder interest in the revitalization of Old Town Newhall is at an all-time high. Over the last year, many property owners and developers have approached the city about initiating redevelopment projects. As the areas in and around Old Town Newhall develop and grow, the Old Town will begin to take shape as an energetic hub in Santa Clarita.

As imagined, once it begins to take form as a revitalized urban village, Old Town Newhall will offer people an intriguing choice as to where to spend their retail, restaurant and entertainment dollars.

April 26-30, 2006



City of
Santa Clarita
COWBOY
FESTIVAL
CALIFORNIA

Great Western Music & Cowboy Poetry!

Authentic Cowboy Gear & Food!

Film Location Tours!

Saturday Night Melody Ranch Swing Dance!

... And Much, Much More!

For information, call 661-286-4021
or visit

www.cowboyfestival.org



at Melody Ranch™ Motion Picture Studios

Chalking It Up.



PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT CHALK ARTISTS DREW THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS TO OLD TOWN NEWHALL FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL SANTA CLARITA STREET ART FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 1 AND 2.

Now Under Construction:

Santa Clarita Community Center II

Coming In January To Old Town Newhall

Watch the Old Town Newhall Gazette for details!



History, CONT.

FROM FRONT PAGE.

a family in San Francisco, which was a civilized city when Los Angeles was only a “cow town.”

Once he had made his fortune, Henry invested in a small, short-line railroad in the Bay Area. Always on the lookout for a good deal, when Southern Pacific offered to buy up his railroad, he negotiated himself onto the board of directors of the company as part of the transaction. This put him to a position to know where the proposed alignment for the north-south railroad was to go. The importance of that railroad alignment was certainly not lost on Henry Mayo Newhall.

At this point in the history of California, Americans, believing in their divine Manifest Destiny, had taken over *Alta California* from the *Californios*. These were people who had acquired land through Spanish or Mexican land grants.

The *Californios* were somewhat mystified by the insistence of the Americans, who thought that the residents should “return” to Mexico. Many of them had never been to Mexico “proper” and had lived for generations in California. Nevertheless, America made it imperative that the indigenous people, who had owned the land for decades, prove they owned the land using legal documents.

These lands were held more by agreement than hard documentation. The American system made it difficult to prove that the land they had lived on was legally

theirs. Many *Californios* could not afford to pay their legal fees and taxes while supporting their families, so they were forced to sell their large ranchos. Henry Mayo Newhall put these two situations together and was there to buy the ranchos along the future alignment of the railroad — at bargain prices.

I suppose that might be considered insider trading today. Back then, however, it was called making good investments. Henry’s fortunes mounted even more.

Once the railroad was ready to be developed, the land Henry held was worth a lot more. Towns had a habit of springing up alongside the railroad. One of these areas was the Santa Clarita Valley.

The first Newhall train station was developed, curiously, at the junction where the line from north to south met the line to Ventura — where our Saugus Train Station used to be (at today’s San Fernando Road and Drayton Street). It didn’t take long to find out that in a drought, the area dried up, so they moved the station to what is now the corner of Market Street and Newhall Avenue, where the Newhall Metrolink Station is now.

The town of Newhall grew up around that station. The Saugus train station was built later, and the town of Surrey or Saugus grew up around it. The Saugus depot was relocated to Heritage Junction Historic Park, inside William S. Hart Park, in 1980. Remember, in those days, distances seemed greater and towns were a lot smaller.

Notice that the name, “Saugus,” was taken from Henry Mayo Newhall’s birthplace, but the local town was originally called “Surrey.”

Henry set about making the town of Newhall a destination. He built the Southern Hotel so travelers could stay comfortably. He tried to sell lots to prospective new residents. While he still maintained his home in San Francisco, when he was in Southern California, he stayed here, in the Santa Clarita Valley, in what we call the Newhall Ranch House, now also located at Heritage Junction Park.

History can be a tricky thing. Some say history is just the story everyone agrees upon. Others say history is written by the winners. History is, to a certain extent, just the fact of being remembered. It is important, though, to be remembered for what you did and not how you were honored for doing it. Knowing why a name is important in your town makes your understanding of that name much richer. That is why it is important to have our history preserved and remembered. It makes our lives richer.

Something that Santa Clarita — and specifically, Newhall — has is the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society at Heritage Junction Historic Park. The Saugus Train Station Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., but you can walk through the park any day and see the buildings that the SCV Historical Society has saved from destruction.

Even better, you are welcome to become a member of the SCV Historical Society and help preserve our local history and our historic buildings. If you are interested in joining, becoming a volunteer or a docent, call the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society at (661) 254-1275 or visit scvhs.org.

Old Town Newhall Children's Parade

You can be in a Holiday Parade!

Saturday, December 10, 2005

10:00 a.m. line up registration at 9th Street and Walnut Avenue for judging

Parade will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

Parade Route:

9th & Walnut Ave. down Newhall Avenue and into Hart Park

Festivities include:

A snow filled winter wonderland at Hart Park
Refreshments • Pictures with Santa Claus • Trophies for winning entries

To participate fill out and return the form below by December 2.



MAIL OR FAX TO:
Jenny Aurit
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Suite #210
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Phone: 255-4318 Fax: 286-4001

Old Town Newhall *Children's Parade* Registration

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Number of People Entering _____

Category Entering (circle one): Individual Individual w/Pet Group

Rules & Regulations: All entries must be Kid powered. You can decorate your wagons, bikes, trikes, scooters, cats, dogs, horse and of course yourself. Enter by yourself or with your pet (please be sure all animals are crowd-friendly), or as a group (scout troop, dance troop, family, friends, etc.). But NO ADULTS allowed in entry. Be creative, have fun and let's all remember why we celebrate this holiday season!

