



# The Gazette.

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FEBRUARY-MARCH 2008

YEAR 14, NUMBER 1

## Newhall Moving Forward.

**First Structure Under Downtown Plan Close To Approval.**

**Public Invited To Weigh In On New Library, Street Redesign.**

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

I have been working and living in the

Santa Clarita Valley for twenty years, and from my first job at the corner of San Fernando Road – now officially Main Street – and Market, to my long-term career at the city of Santa Clarita, I have been working on and in Newhall the entire two decades.

During the last two years, I have spent more time talking about Newhall than in the previous eighteen years combined. Everyone from my family and friends to people I am introduced to who find out I work for the city want to know what is going to happen in Newhall.

Just about everyone has seen the steady changes over the years, but the ones we all are working on now are the most dramatic and will have some of the most lasting impacts.

Twenty years from now – I'll be retired, but probably still in the SCV – people will hopefully look back at the trials and tribulations of this period of Newhall's history and say, "I am glad we did what we did back then. Newhall has never been better."

As 2008 builds steam, city staff, the  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.**

## Road Into Newhall Will Be 'Newhall.'

**San Fernando Road Renamed South Of Fifth.**

By **ALEX HERNANDEZ**,  
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

Motorists and visitors may have an easier time traveling to Newhall after a recent City Council vote.

The Council voted January 22 to change the street name of San Fernando Road to Newhall Avenue for the segment of road from Fifth Street south to Highway 14.

When the physical renaming is complete, motorists will be able to exit Highway 14 at the "Newhall Avenue" off-ramp and travel into Old Town Newhall.

The street name change does not affect address numbers. The city has been in contact with the United States Postal Service and has received assurances that mail will be delivered indefinitely to any existing address, regardless of whether it says "San Fernando Road" or "Newhall Avenue" as the street name.

The city will complete necessary notifications to directly affected residents and businesses along this stretch of road. Additionally, notifications will be sent to the U.S. Postal Service, all utility companies, emergency services and other affected public agencies.

New street signs designating "Newhall Avenue" will be installed in the coming months. The city will also work with Caltrans to change out signage on Highway 14 to display the new street name.

For more information on the street name change, contact me at 661/286-4030 or [ahernandez@santa-clarita.com](mailto:ahernandez@santa-clarita.com).

## Young at Hart.

**Second-Generation SCV Historian At The Helm Of Hilltop Museum.**

By **PATTI RASMUSSEN**,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

She's the daughter of an immigrant, and her mother's American heritage dates back to the 1600s. Born and raised in the Santa Clarita Valley, she attended local schools and volunteered alongside her mom. Today, at the tender age of twenty-six, Ayesha Saletore runs the museum at the Hart Mansion – and this girl knows her history.

Saletore, a Saugus High School graduate, began her career at the William S. Hart Mansion during the summer of 2000 while a student at College of the Canyons. She applied and was accepted into the Getty

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.**



**AYESHA SALETORE, HART PARK MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR.**

## Newhall Hardware Quits.

**Sixty-Year-Old Icon Liquidates Inventory.**

By **PATTI RASMUSSEN**,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

From the Newhall Hardware offi-

cial Web page:

"Dear friends and loyal customers, "It has been a pleasure to serve the Santa Clarita community for the last sixty years. It is with great sadness that I announce that Friday January 25 was the last day of regular business. Thank you for many years of great memories!

"Victor, Mary, Diane, Matt, Richard, and the rest of the crew"

And with that, an era comes to an end.

It's hard to imagine the town of Newhall without its hardware store.

From the school districts and movie

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# The Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

## EDITORIAL.

# A Long And Ruttled Road.

*"Santa Clarita is well on the road to becoming a premiere city of the Twenty-first Century, but its heart – downtown Newhall – is broken. It will take the combined efforts of the Newhall business community, our city government and residents throughout this valley to mend it."*

With those words, an extremely small group of people launched the Old Town Newhall Gazette in the summer of 1995.

Victor Feany was one of them. He showed his support for the effort to "get the message out" by advertising his business in that very first edition. (At the time, he was the store manager.)

Those of us who had been around town a while didn't like what we were seeing. No matter where in Santa Clarita we slept at night. Old Town Newhall – or simply "Old Newhall," as we called it – was our home.

And it was hurting. This was no one's fault. It was ... destiny. It was what progress left behind when the postwar baby boom brought legions of people to Southern California. Landowners did what had to be done, what made economic sense, to meet the exploding demand for affordable housing: They turned farmland into sprawl-

**'It is a wonder – and nothing short of a miracle – that Newhall Hardware lasted as long as it did. It is a true testament to Vic Feany and his associates' love and devotion to their community that they weathered the storm that "progress" threw their way.'**

ing tracts of new homes – in our case, Valencia.

Newhall was our historic center, but urban sprawl transported our valley's population center north and west. With it went the money.

Gone was the bank on San Fernando Road. Gone was the Sheriff's Station and courthouse. Gone were the car dealerships. Gone was the gas station and drug store. They followed the money, or they followed their footloose clientele, or they went out of business all together because fewer people had to come to Newhall for shopping, dining, entertainment and personal services. There were trendier stores and movie theaters in Valencia. Even the seat of local government had left.

Which was the chicken? Which the egg? It doesn't matter. What mattered in 1995, and still matters today, is what we do about it.

It is a wonder – and nothing short of a miracle – that Newhall Hardware lasted as long as it did. It is a true testament to Vic Feany and his associates' love and devotion to their community that they weathered the storm that "progress" threw their way.



LEON WORDEN  
NEWHALL IN THE MID-1990s WAS AN OBVIOUS CANDIDATE FOR REVITALIZATION.

From 1989 to 1993, before the revitalization of Old Town Newhall began, taxable retail sales throughout the city of Santa Clarita increased four percent. Meanwhile, in Newhall, they fell ten percent.

Buildings stood vacant. Windows were boarded up. The original Downtown Newhall Merchants Association was literally down to two guys – insurance agent Virgil Saunders and auto parts dealer Bob Martin – and after the 1994 earthquake, even they were done.

As downtown planning consultant Michael Freedman put it in 1995, "It looks like a ghost town where people are still trying to do business."

The economic engine Newhall had been for more than a century had stalled out. San Fernando Road had become a strip mall for the adjacent community, with a supermarket and thrift shops and liquor stores and restaurants and video rental outlets to meet the convenience needs of neighbors within a one-mile radius – like any other strip mall in Santa Clarita.

But San Fernando Road is not a strip mall. It was and is configured to be a central business district. To be successful, Newhall would need to serve the adjacent neighborhood and attract customers from outside the area who would leave some cash behind.

That's what was missing from the equation: the businesses that make the difference between a strip mall and a central business district. The types of businesses that draw customers from a three-mile radius. Banks. Movie theaters. Drug stores.

And a hardware store.

Newhall Hardware catered to walk-in customers, but something on the order of half its business came from construction contractors all over the Santa Clarita Valley. It was a regional business.

With more and more big-box competitors luring away its walk-in traffic at the same time the housing market was taking a nosedive – you do the math.

In 1995 we recognized it would require a concerted effort to stanch the blight, both physical (vacancies, dereliction) and economic. Just as retail sales were falling in Newhall, so too were property values, even while they surged in the rest of the city.

Newhall needed to be attractive to the types of regional, "three-mile" businesses that could make it a thriving economic hub again. It wasn't attractive – not physically or in terms of building allowances or incentives. There weren't any. It was not uncommon in the early 1990s to hear potential investors say they weren't interested in Newhall because they didn't see sufficient commitment from "the city" to turn the area around.

But we had faith: faith in the community and faith in our local government leaders. As we stated in that very first Gazette, "We know that together, the people of Santa Clarita can transform our valley's historic center into a place where folks can once again meet, dine, shop, socialize and escape."

In truth, the kernel of the turnaround was planted two years earlier with an initial city government study of the area. Now, in 1995, we would no longer call it Old

Newhall. The late Richard Rioux came up with the name "Old Town Newhall" because it conveyed a particular vision for the area. Old is quaint and, well – old; "Old Town" has a specific meaning to people. It's alive. It's also a planning term, just as "new town" was the technical 1960s name for a planned community such as Valencia.

From downtown maven Jo

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## The Gazette.

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# Exciting Times Around The Corner.

## Marketing, Library, Streetscape Keep Stakeholders Busy.

### A Message From PHIL ELLIS, CHAIRMAN, NEWHALL REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Like so many years before it, 2007 has come and gone, and here we are looking forward to an exciting 2008. Thanks to a well established and ongoing partnership, the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, the city of Santa Clarita and the community will continue to overcome challenges, enjoy many successes, and achieve great things together.

Some of the projects we have to look forward to this year include:

■ **MARKETING PLAN:** The Newhall Redevelopment Committee will be heavily involved in helping the city develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan for Old Town Newhall. Several committee members along with other stakeholders have met to offer their input, expertise and recommendations.

I am excited about some new programs and events that may be unveiled by the group later this year, as well as the increased visibility for Old Town Newhall.

■ **NEWHALL LIBRARY:** Numerous



Message From  
The Chairman

organizations and stakeholder groups have been invited to participate on the Newhall Library Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee will represent a diverse cross-section of the community and will assist with determining the many services and programs that may be included within the design of the new facility.

Staff from the city of Santa Clarita and county of Los Angeles, as well as a specially selected library consultant, will be working directly with this committee to determine the makeup of this highly



City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Redevelopment Committee, from left: Bob Spierer, Larry Bird, Randall Winter, Duane Harte, Carol Rock, Susan Shapiro, Phil Ellis, Dennis Verner, Kevin Korenthel, Leon Worden. Not Pictured: Ron Esposito, Victor Feany, John Grannis.

anticipated project. The community at large will be invited to attend future meetings regarding the Newhall Library; however, the involvement and participation of the advisory committee will be critical to this process.

■ **STREETSCAPE:** The final stages of the renaming of major streets approaching Newhall are just about done. Several exciting development projects are nearing the

approval stages. The entire streetscape project is now well under design.

As always, I'd like to remind everyone that the Newhall Redevelopment Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held in City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, in the Century Conference Room on the first floor. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

# 'North Newhall' Planning Delayed A Year.

## Problematic Rail Crossing Refocuses City's Attention On Lyons-Dockweiler Extensions.

By JASON SMISKO,  
SENIOR PLANNER,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

Capitalizing on the successful planning effort that culminated in the Santa Clarita City Council's approval in 2005 of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the city hired the same planning consultants, Moule and Polyzoides Inc., to create a specific plan for the area designated "North Newhall."

Adjacent to and north of Old Town Newhall, the two-hundred thirteen-acre North Newhall Specific Plan project area is bounded by Circle J Ranch to the north, Market

Street to the south, Placerita Canyon to the east and Newhall Creek to the west. Much of the property consists of vacant land that is annually used for parking for the city's Cowboy Festival.

Prior to creating a land plan for North Newhall, the project team interviewed scores of community and public agency stakeholders and conducted multiple community workshops in August and September 2006. This public participation allowed the project team to gather input and ideas from the community and to gain insight on the issues and the development options available for the project area.

This research culminated in a four-day community charrette, or workshop, at William S. Hart Park's Hart Hall that was similar to the one followed in developing the Downtown

Newhall Specific Plan in 2004.

The charrette brought designers, engineers and other consultants together with community leaders, residents and property owners to solve design problems and development issues.

Participants were divided into sub-groups to discuss issues, design ideas and present information. Presentations highlighted important topics and reviewed accomplishments.

Although there is not a formal land-use project proposal, featured characteristics that arose out of the charrette process included:

- An equestrian center north of Placerita Creek;
- A regional park south of Placerita Creek;
- An off-street multi-use trail east of San Fernando Road;
- Approximately six-hundred fifty

residential units of varied housing types;

■ Approximately seven hundred thousand square feet of commercial-industrial use with much of it to front San Fernando Road and with a neighborhood commercial center at the future connection of the Dockweiler Drive and Lyons Avenue extensions;

■ The two hundred-foot-wide Metropolitan Water District easement to be landscaped and used as passive open space and a multi-use trail;

■ Extension of the Lyons Avenue at-grade rail crossing at Railroad Avenue and the railroad tracks into Placerita Canyon and the planning area, and connecting to the future Dockweiler Drive extension with a traffic circle (roundabout); and

■ Closing of the Thirteenth Street vehicular entrance in the Placerita Canyon community.

All of this is still subject to further planning, evaluation and change as city planning staff members are still working through key project design issues and constraints.

City staff has temporarily suspended the land use planning of this project in order to concentrate on issues specific to vehicular circulation and rail crossings.

It had come to the project team's attention that obtaining multiple agency approval – most notably, the Public Utilities Commission – for an at-grade rail crossing of the potential Lyons Avenue extension north into the project boundary could be exceptionally difficult.

As a result, the city will be focusing on the issue of connecting Lyons Avenue to Dockweiler. The

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# Senior Center Hosts Unique Movie Experience.

**One Of The Last Living Film Pianists Of Silent Era To Perform.**

**Keaton Film Shot In Santa Clarita In 1925.**

**From The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center.**

Movie buffs will not only have the opportunity to see the classic silent Buster Keaton film, "The General" (1927), but will also be able to enjoy the amazing accompaniment of one of the last living film organists-pianists of the silent era, Bob Mitchell.

The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center, along with Michael Lyn and E.J. Stevens, will present this unique movie experience Sunday, February 17, at 3 p.m. at the SCV Senior Center, 22900 Market Street in Newhall.

A second presentation of a Keaton film, "Seven Chances" – partially shot in the Santa Clarita Valley in 1925 – will be shown Friday, February 29, at 6 p.m. at Bouquet Canyon Seniors Apartments, 26705 Bouquet Canyon Road.

For this showing, movie buffs are requested to park next door at the El Presidente Restaurant and shopping center lot.

These special movie presentations will be free to



E.J. STEPHENS

**BOB MITCHELL – AT AGE 95, ONE OF THE LAST LIVING FILM PIANISTS OF THE SILENT PERIOD – WILL PERFORM TWICE IN FEBRUARY AS THE S.C.V. SENIOR CENTER SCREENS A PAIR OF CLASSIC BUSTER KEATON COMEDIES.**

the public. For more information call Volunteer Director Robin Clough at 661/259-9444.

February's regular monthly second-Wednesday

Senior Cinema at the Senior Center will be "Because of Winn-Dixie" on February 13 at 2:15 p.m. A \$1 donation is requested.

## Old Town Newhall Events

### February

- Friday Night Flickers – "The Girl Can't Help It" – Heritage Junction: 1
- Steel Magnolias – Repertory East Playhouse: 1-2, 8-10, 15-16
- Winnie the Pooh – Canyon Theatre Guild: 2-3, 9-10, 16
- An Evening of Jazz – William S. Hart Museum: 2
- Presidents' Party for 1st-6th Graders - Newhall Library: 12
- Valentine Carnival – Community Center: 14
- Sweetheart Dance – Senior Center: 15

### March

- Man of La Mancha – Canyon Theatre Guild: 1-2, 7-9
- Culture Day – Community Center: 7
- A Celebration of Chaplin – William S. Hart Museum: 8
- St. Francis Dam Disaster 80th Anniversary Lecture and Tour – SCV Historical Society: 9
- Wit – Repertory East Playhouse: 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, 28-30
- Magic Show – Newhall Library: 11
- Spring Carnival – Community Center: 19
- Over the River and Through the Woods – Canyon Theatre Guild: 21-22, 29-30
- A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas – Canyon Theatre Guild: 22, 29-30



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

# Farmers' Market Expands In Newhall.

## Partnership With Whole Foods Offers Fresh Produce And More.

By PHIL LANTIS,  
ARTS AND EVENTS  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The Old Town Newhall Farmers' Markets are getting a makeover. In its fourth year, the markets, which are produced by the city of Santa Clarita, will be moving to a new location and will be expanded to include even more exciting shopping and entertainment opportunities.

The city is partnering with Whole Foods Market and building on the involvement of the Old Town Newhall Association to create a wonderful series of Thursday evening events starting April 3 and running every Thursday through the end of October.

Through these partnerships, the markets will feature a variety of produce vendors offer-

ing high-quality, straight-from-the-farm fruits and vegetables; booths showcasing some of the unique businesses located in Old Town Newhall; a delicious barbeque provided by Tresieras Market; fun activities for children and adults; and community entertainment.

All of this will make Old Town Newhall the place to be on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Farmers' Markets will be moving into the streets of Old Town Newhall, which will create the feeling of a street party – enhancing the market experience.

The re-imaged markets would not be possible without the valuable cooperation of the local Whole Foods Market and the Old Town Newhall Association.

Whole Foods is our bridge to the best produce vendors in the Southern California region; their reputation for quality and service is well known both locally and throughout the country. Whole Foods will also provide exciting special features that will



**THE POPULAR OLD TOWN NEWHALL FARMERS' MARKET IS GETTING A MAKEOVER THIS YEAR.**

enhance the markets, everything from massages to demonstrations of everything from cheeses to how to select great produce.

The Old Town Newhall Association provides a link to the numerous businesses located along Main Street and will bring those businesses into the markets to give the patrons an opportunity to discover some of the treasures of the Newhall area. Additionally, the association will be offering coupons at a booth for market visitors to go

into the stores and restaurants in the Old Town where they will get discounts on products and food.

The city of Santa Clarita is excited about the evolution of the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Markets and is adding an entertainment stage that will feature local performers every week for attendees to enjoy as they stroll the streets or partake of the wonderful barbeque of Tresieras Market.

The stage will feature

everything from performances by the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Repertory East Playhouse to local musicians and bands, and will definitely add to the overall feeling of the markets.

This year will be an exciting one for the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Markets. With these changes, the city hopes you will come to check out the events and make it part of your weekly schedule.

The city's goal with the Farmers' Markets has always been to offer the community a great series of events that offers the patrons an enjoyable evening, where the community can come together and purchase the best produce available, to meet with your neighbors, and to see the exciting changes happening along Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

For more information about the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Markets, contact the city's Arts and Events Office at 661/286-4011.

## Envisioning A Vibrant Old Town.

By SUZIE SZABO,  
MANAGER,  
OLD TOWN NEWHALL ASSOCIATION.

As the manager for the Old Town Newhall Association, I have several visions for the area.

With the city working extremely hard on the revitalization, and seeing the changes occurring in Old Town Newhall, I envision a common gathering area: a place where people can come and be entertained and at the same time see all the history of Newhall.

I see the streets of Old Town Newhall filled with people walking, shopping and visiting with friends. I see new shops along Main Street adding to the unique environment of Old Town Newhall.

In 2008, the Old Town Newhall Association will partner with the city of Santa Clarita to bring several events to Old Town Newhall and begin the process of transforming this vision into reality. I invite all those interested in sharing this vision and helping to bring this to fruition to contact me at 661/253-0730.



SUZIE SZABO

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# Keeping In Fashion In Old Town Newhall.

ALISHA CELESTINE,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

Old Town Newhall is staking its claim as a truly unique destination for a shopping excursion in the Santa Clarita Valley. Along with the neighborhood favorites such as Abe's Pawn Shop and Cookbooks Plus, Old Town Newhall has some great stores for anyone looking to update his or her wardrobe.

"Fresh" is a women's clothing boutique that prides itself on giving each shopper personalized

attention. The store caters to clients who are looking for the latest fashion from some of the hottest designers including Diane von Furstenberg, Michael Stars, Cynthia Vincent, Ella Moss and Jamie Kreitman Shoes. Fresh is a wonderful place to spend your time and truly enjoy your shopping experience.

Fresh: 24419 Walnut Street, 661/259-4166, [shopatfresh.com](http://shopatfresh.com).

Located next door to the Egg Plantation Restaurant, Propinquities recently relocated to Old Town Newhall. Filled with distinctive clothing and home

décor, the store is lavish and feminine, reminiscent of boutiques that line the streets of the Champs-Élysées in Paris. From delicate lingerie to flirty sandals, Propinquities is the perfect place to find something to treat yourself or someone else.

Propinquities: 24417 Walnut Street, 661/255-0229.

To make sure the guys don't feel left out, Planet Soccer and Roger Dunn have them covered. Planet Soccer can be described as a destination sports store, much like its close neighbor, the Roger Dunn Golf Shop.

Planet Soccer features specialty soccer clothes and accessories from more than 30 lines of merchandise including hard-to-find European team jerseys and other logo merchandise. Customers can customize their merchandise and accessories by adding numbers, names or embroidery. Planet Soccer is truly a one-stop shop for the soccer enthusiast.

Planet Soccer: 24331 Main Street, 661/253-1800.

Roger Dunn is considered one of the world's largest golf "supermarkets." The store has a

wide selection of products and brands, and while products can be viewed and purchased online, golf clubs, accessories and apparel are best suited for the hands-on experience inside the brick-and-mortar store. Roger Dunn's staff is knowledgeable and personable, and all understand their store's destination appeal. It is no wonder that professional players in town for the AT&T Golf Classic and other regional events make sure to stop by the Roger Dunn Golf Shop in Old Town Newhall.

Roger Dunn: 24200 Main Street, 661/222-7177.

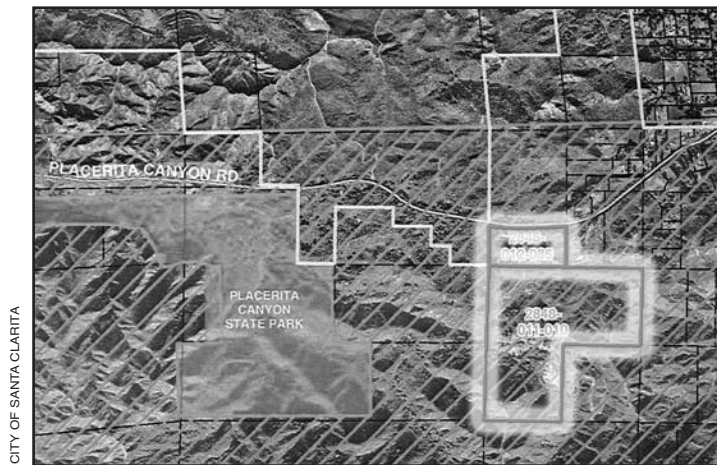
## City Seeks Ex-Blasting Site As Open Space.

By LEON WORDEN,  
GAZETTE EDITOR.

The city of Santa Clarita hopes to preserve a 140-acre swath of land in Placerita Canyon that once was used for the manufacture of explosive devices.

On December 11, the City Council authorized a \$150,000 down payment toward the eventual \$2.575 million purchase of the property, a stone's throw from the eastern boundary of Placerita Canyon State and County Park. The land is to be preserved as permanent open space parkland.

If the transaction is completed, the 140 acres in Placerita Canyon "will enhance the city's continuous efforts to preserve open space and improve connectivity with existing natural areas," according to a staff report.



THE FORMER LOCATION OF SPECIAL DEVICES INC. MAY BE PRESERVED AS OPEN SPACE.

The property is owned by Special Devices Inc., a maker of detonators and propellants for the mining, defense, aerospace and automotive industries.

The company manufactured detonators for auto air bags and for the Gemini space

capsule at the Placerita facility before relocating its operations to Moorpark.

The Placerita property is under a remediation order from the state Department of Toxic Substances Control. Contamination is believed to be contained.

The city is working with DTSC to secure a clearance for the property, city Parks Director Rick Gould said.

If not purchased by the city, the land could be sold to developers for homes even though it is in the Angeles National Forest, Gould said.

In addition to its close proximity to the Placerita Park, the SDI property is contiguous to 900 acres of open space the city is acquiring from the Golden Valley Ranch developer.

In 2007, Santa Clarita homeowners voted to create and fund an open space conservation district, which will enable the city to buy property around the city's perimeter and preserve it, rather than allowing it to be developed.

Only a small portion of the \$2.575 million price tag for the SDI property is likely to be financed by the district.

## Old Town Gazette Exalted.

The Old Town Newhall Gazette was a winner at the 2007 3CMA conference, a national marketing organization for cities and counties. The Gazette was honored for its innovative style and informative "old time newspaper" look by the organization, whose judges include marketing and public affairs gurus from across the country.

A collaborative effort between the city of Santa Clarita and SCV Communications Group, the Gazette provides quarterly reading to residents and businesses interested in Santa Clarita's oldest community — Newhall.

## Planning, CONT.

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land use for this specific plan area is subject to the circulation patterns that are ultimately approved.

The next steps in this project and related issues will include initiating the environmental review process for the proposed Lyons

Avenue connection to Dockweiler, evaluating area traffic counts, developing a strategy for PUC application, reaching agreement and support with other impacted agencies, and filing an application with the PUC. This application-approval process could take approximately one year.

Once completed, the North Newhall Specific Plan will provide property and business owners with the necessary tools to entice quality

investments, ensure a consistent development pattern with complementary uses, preserve environmentally sensitive areas and provide mechanism to construct needed public improvements.

The plan is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million and take a year and a half or longer to complete.

Following a resolution of the Lyons Avenue rail crossing issue, staff will begin the process of completing the proposed land uses for

the draft specific plan and draft environmental impact report. After the drafts are completed, there will be numerous study sessions and public hearings before the city's Planning Commission and City Council.

The North Newhall Specific Plan is part of a larger planning effort in the greater Newhall area. Other separate projects currently being reviewed or processed include the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan development and implementa-

tion; the re-striping of lanes along San Fernando Road and Railroad Avenue; build-out and implementation of the Gate-King Industrial Park project; The Master's College master plan and expansion; and the Dockweiler Drive extension.

For more information on the North Newhall Specific Plan, please contact me at [jsmisko@santa-clarita.com](mailto:jsmisko@santa-clarita.com) or James Chow at [jchow@santa-clarita.com](mailto:jchow@santa-clarita.com) in the city's Planning Division, 661/255-4330.

# 'There It Is, Take It.'

**Without Imported Water, Los Angeles And Santa Clarita Could Not Have Grown.**

**For Fifteen Years, Mulholland Was On Top Of The World.**

**Then He Came Crashing Down.**

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

It was the beginning of the proverbial rise and fall for William Mulholland. On the triumphant day of November 5, 1913, more than forty thousand Los Angelenos gathered in the Northern San Fernando Valley – in present-day Sylmar – to witness the first waters to flow into that valley from Mulholland's miraculous Los Angeles Aqueduct.

The hero of the City of Los Angeles, Mulholland presided over the ceremony and instructed the water gate to be opened with the famous words, "There it is, take it."

The November 6, 1913, issue of the Los Angeles Times proclaimed, "Glorious Mountain River Now Flows to Los Angeles."

SOVHISTORY.COM



In the early days of the pueblo of Los Angeles, the city water supply was obtained from the Los Angeles River. Water was brought to the pueblo from the river by way of a series of ditches called zanjas. The main ditch was called the Zanja Madre, or mother ditch.

By 1868, the population of the pueblo had grown to 5,000 to 6,000. At that time, the city entered into a contract with a pri-

vate water company, the Los Angeles City Water Company, to lease the city's waterworks for thirty years to provide water to the city.

In 1875, Fred Eaton, a member of a prominent family from Pasadena, became superintendent of the water company. He hired Irish immigrant William Mulholland in 1878 as a zanjero, or ditch tender. Although he had no formal schooling, Mulholland proved to be



**WILLIAM MULHOLLAND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING WATER TO A THIRSTY LOS ANGELES IN 1913. AS SEEN IN THIS GRAND-OPENING PHOTOGRAPH, FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, HIS WATER PROJECT WOULD KILL 450 PEOPLE.**

a brilliant employee who taught himself engineering and geology.

Mulholland became friends with Eaton and quickly moved up the ranks of the water company, becoming superintendent in 1886. Eaton eventually became mayor of Los Angeles from 1898 to 1900.

By the turn of the century, the population of Los Angeles had grown to more than 100,000. The Los Angeles River continued to be the only supply of water for this rapidly growing city.

It became obvious that if the city was to grow further, it would need another source of water. In 1902, the City of Los Angeles took over the city's water supply, and the Bureau of Water Works and Supply was formed with Mulholland continuing as superintendent.

Mulholland drove on a buckboard through Newhall and Saugus in 1904 with his friend Eaton on their way to explore the Owens Valley east of the Sierra Nevada Range, which Eaton had visited in the 1890s. Eaton wanted to convince Mulholland that the Owens River might in some way be diverted to Los Angeles to become that extra water source that the growing city desperately needed.

It was on that trip that Mulholland and Eaton hatched the idea of building an aqueduct between the Owens Valley and the San Fernando Valley.

But accomplishing this would first require buying up land and water rights in the Owens Valley.

The residents of the Owens Valley had other ideas. They were looking forward to a reclamation project sponsored by the federal Bureau of Reclamation.

Eaton, with help from his friend and local chief of the reclamation service, J.B. Lippincott, began buying up land in the Owens Valley under the pretense that the land would be used for the reclamation project.

By July 1905, Eaton had bought enough land to secure the land and water rights to build the aqueduct.

The Los Angeles Daily Times headline of July 29, 1905, would state, "Titanic Project to Give City a River. Thirty Thousand Inches of Water to be Brought to Los Angeles. Options Secured on Forty Miles of River Frontage in Inyo County. Stupendous Deal Closed."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.**

## Eighty Years Later, Dam Still Fascinates.

**Historical Society Sponsors Free Lecture March 8, Tour March 9.**

**From The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society.**

The second-worst natural disaster in California history occurred March 12, 1928, when the St. Francis Dam collapsed, sending a wall of water rushing through San Francisquito Canyon and the Santa Clara River canyons, killing four hundred fifty people and laying waste to thousands of acres of land.

To commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the disaster, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will host two events exploring the dam break and its aftermath.

On Saturday, March 8, at 1 p.m., noted dam lecturer Frank Rock will give a free, ninety-minute lecture on the disaster at the Saugus Train Station in Heritage Junction, which will include a multimedia presentation of photographs, maps and other memorabilia. Doors will open at noon for the lecture; no reservations will be taken, so arrive early for a good seat.

On Sunday, March 9, Rock will conduct a motor coach tour and hike of the dam

ruins as a fundraiser for the Society at 1 p.m. Tickets for the Sunday lecture and tour are \$35 per person, which includes water and snacks. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and long pants for the moderate hike. The tour will last approximately three hours, when the motor coaches will return to Heritage Junction.

Rock is a historian who has been featured on the History Channel, Discovery and the Learning Channel, and is considered the expert on the disaster. He is currently working with noted geologist J. David Rogers on a book about the disaster and has lectured on the disaster at the California

Conference of Historical Societies Symposium, College of the Canyons and other groups with historical interests.

Tour reservations may be made via credit card by calling 661/254-1275 or by mail by sending check or money order to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, Post Office Box 221925, Newhall, Calif. 91322-1925.

Seats are limited, so make reservations early to guarantee a spot for the tour. Any remaining seats will be sold the day of the tour on a first-come, first-served basis. Unforeseen road or forest closures may cause cancellation of the tour.

# Arts And Events Update.

## Cowboy Crooners, Vegetable Vendors And Patriotic Paraders Keep Old Town Hopping.

By PHILLANTIS,  
ARTS AND EVENTS  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The city of Santa Clarita is very excited to be offering a variety of events in Old Town Newhall in the coming year.

Newhall is one of the most vibrant and exciting parts of the city, and with its unique history and character, and with the changes happening through the city's redevelopment of the area, it is a great place to come to shop or to experience some of the best events the

city produces – or to enjoy wonderful public art pieces that have been created over the last couple of years.

In late April, the fifteenth annual Cowboy Festival will take place across the city, with a focus on Old Town Newhall and the beautiful Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio in Placerita Canyon. This year's festival will feature numerous events along Main Street, in William S. Hart Park, at the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's Heritage Junction, and at the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center.

On April 23, a new event, "Silver Screen Cowboys and More," will be held at the Repertory East Playhouse at 7 p.m. This event is produced by the Santa Clarita Valley Film Festival and 7th Voyage Productions, and will offer an

entertaining evening of films that honor your favorite Western stars.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will present its annual Chuckwagon Dinner Show on April 24 at 6 p.m. in Heritage Junction, inside William S. Hart Park. The event features chuck wagon cooking demonstrations, dinner, and the music of Juni Fisher. The event raises funds for the Historical Society as it works to preserve the history of Santa Clarita.

The Friends of Hart Park offer two exciting events as part of this year's Festival. On April 25 in the William S. Hart Mansion, there will be a live concert by the Sons of the San Joaquin. The mansion offers an intimate setting surrounded by paintings by Charles Russell, Frederic Remington, James Montgomery Flagg and others.

On April 26 at 7 p.m. a new event, "Art at Hart," will be held in Hart Hall. The event features a tour of the priceless art and Western artifacts in the Hart Mansion, followed by an artist's "quick draw" and auction.

Also on April 26, the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center will host a Western Swing Dance featuring the very exciting performers, Hot Club of Cowtown. Hot Club has been featured at the Cowboy Festival several times, but this is their first time playing the Swing Dance.

Throughout the weekend of April 26 and 27, the Cowboy Festival will once again come to the historic Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio. The Festival features the best Western performers, wonderful gear vendors and great food – all

in a one-of-a-kind setting that is open to the public only once per year. For more information about the Cowboy Festival, visit [cowboyleftival.org](http://cowboyleftival.org).

The city will kick off the Old Town Newhall Farmers' Market on April 3. The outdoor market runs weekly on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. through the end of October.

Some of the other exciting events coming to Old Town Newhall in 2008 are the annual Fourth of July Parade, the City of Santa Clarita Street Art Festival on September 27 and 28, and the Old Town Newhall Holiday Parade on December 6. More to come on all of these events! For information visit [santaclarita.com](http://santaclarita.com) or call the Arts and Events Office at 661/286-4018.

## Cowboy Crooners Return In April.

### Tickets On Sale Now.

#### From The City Of Santa Clarita.

Tickets are on sale for five days of cowboy culture and excitement. This year, the best performers in Western entertainment will help celebrate the City of Santa Clarita's fifteenth annual Cowboy Festival, April 23-27, with several events throughout the Santa Clarita Valley including an intimate concert at William S. Hart Museum, the unveiling of a few new bronze plaques on the Walk of Western

Stars, a lunch and show at an old California Rancho, and a themed dinner train.

Some events sell out, so buy tickets early to avoid being left out of this Santa Clarita tradition. A two-day weekend pass is available and the city offers a limited number of "Friends of the Festival" packages, which include admission to Melody Ranch for both Saturday and Sunday, preferred seating at all Melody Ranch Stage shows, all-weekend access to the Melody Ranch VIP Bunkhouse with catered food and beverages, and much more.

The main festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday when visitors are invited to Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio – a real working movie ranch formerly owned by the "Singing Cowboy," Gene Autry.

Through the years, Melody Ranch has been the location for thousands of motion picture and television productions, but was most recently home to HBO's acclaimed serialized drama, "Deadwood."

At Melody Ranch, the lines blur between the modern day and a bygone era as patrons walk through an authentic Western movie set,

enjoy performances from some of the most respected Cowboy musicians including Don Edwards, Sons of the San Joaquin and the Quebe Sisters Band, and dine on authentic Cowboy cuisine.

Among the other 2008 headliners are Waddie Mitchell, Belinda Gail and Curly Musgrave, Cowbop, Gary McMahan, John Moore Band, Eli Barsi, Pat Richardson, Larry Maurice, Sons and Brothers Band, and the Hot Club of Cowtown.

If you have always wanted to try your hand as a cowpoke, the festival will once again feature a hands-on "living history" exhibit for children and adults.

The Festival is consistently recognized as one of the best in the world, taking visitors back in time to enjoy the sights, sounds and cuisine of the American West.

Since 1994, the city has continually brought to life the music, magic and spirit of the Old West for the thousands who visit the festival each year. The festival's Western music, cowboy poetry, authentic cowboy gear and food, tours of Melody Ranch, and Western art auctions are always well attended.

For more information, visit [cowboyleftival.org](http://cowboyleftival.org) or call the Cowboy Festival Ticket hotline at 661/286-4021.

## The REP Unbound In 2008.

From OVERTON  
MICHAELOWSTON,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,  
REPERTORY EAST PLAYHOUSE.

The Repertory East Playhouse on Main Street in Old Town Newhall offers a full season of performances for your theatrical entertainment pleasure. All performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. For tickets and information visit [RepEastPlayhouse.org](http://RepEastPlayhouse.org)

house.org or call 661/288.0000.

### Steel Magnolias By Robert Harling Through February 16.

The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all of the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle – who is unsure whether she is still married – the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy dispenses sham-

poos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, ("I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for forty years"); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby – the prettiest girl in town – is about to marry a "good ol' boy."

Filled with hilarious repartee, the play moves toward tragedy when, in the second act, the spunky Shelby, who is a diabetic, risks pregnancy and forfeits her life. The sud-

den realization of their mortality affects the others, but also draws on the underlying strength – and love – which give the play, and its characters, the special quality to make them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad.

Wit  
Winner of the 1999 Pulitzer  
Prize for Drama  
By Margaret Edson  
March 7 through April 5.

Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a

renowned professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the brilliant and difficult metaphysical sonnets of John Donne, has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Her approach to the study of Donne: aggressively probing, intensely rational. But during the course of her illness Vivian comes to reassess her life and her work with a profundity and humor that are transformative both for her and for the audience.

# Meet the Newhall School District Principals.

By PATTI RASMUSSEN,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

## Larry Heath (McGrath Elementary)

Larry Heath has been principal of McGrath Elementary since opening day in 2003. He is no stranger to education, having been in the profession for more than thirty years.

Heath began his career in the Saugus Union School District and moved to Monterey County to accept a job as principal at the young age of twenty-nine. He returned to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1981 as principal at Newhall Elementary School. Heath was also a principal at Meadows and Wiley Canyon elementary schools.

McGrath Elementary opened in 2003 to alleviate overcrowding on the east side of Newhall. It was named after Dr. J. Michael McGrath, former superintendent of the Newhall District.

Heath enjoys the students, parents and staff at McGrath Elementary and the admiration is returned. Although there have been many challenges at the school, Heath has been a hands-on administrator, willing to rearrange schedules and curriculum to ensure the success of all of his students.



HEATH

## Chad Rose (Meadows Elementary)

Chad Rose started working for the Newhall School District in April 2005 as an assistant principal at Dr. J. Michael McGrath Elementary. In 2006, he moved into his current position as principal at Meadows School.

Rose holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with supplemental authorizations in English, math and social studies; a bachelor's degree in liberal studies; and a master's degree in educational administration – all earned at California State University, Northridge. In his career thus far, Rose said he has had the opportunity to be an after-school playground supervisor, a teaching assistant, a computer specialist, an elementary school teacher, a distance-learning professional development facilitator, an assistant principal, and now a principal.

What he enjoys most about working in education is the ability to get to know and



ROSE

interact with students, teachers and families on a regular basis.

## Tim Lankford (Newhall Elementary)

Timothy Arnett Lankford began working with the Newhall Elementary School District as principal of Newhall Elementary School in October 2005.

Lankford started his educational career as a classroom teacher in August 1994 in the Compton Unified School District; in 1996 he was hired into the Los Angeles Unified School District and over the years has worked as a classroom teacher, Title I coordinator, assistant principal and Principal.

Lankford received a baccalaureate degree in political science from UCLA and a master's degree in education from California State University, Dominguez Hills. His favorite quote is, "Every day is a great day for learning."



LANKFORD

## Wayne Abruzzo (Oak Hills Elementary)

Wayne Abruzzo started in the Newhall District in October 1989. Previously, he was teaching science (biology and chemistry) and coaching in Burbank.

Abruzzo was named assistant principal at Valencia Valley for two years before being handed a split assistant-principal job at Meadows and Wiley Canyon for one year.

He returned to Valencia Valley in 1992 and was appointed principal upon the retirement of Gerry Morey. He served as principal there until he was named principal at Oak Hills in 2005.

Abruzzo received his bachelor's degree in biology at California State University, Northridge; his master's in education from the University of Redlands; and his administrative credentials from CSUN.

His favorite moment in his educational career was his last week at Valencia Valley, before he left to establish Oak Hills Elementary. After so many years at Valencia Valley, it was hard and touching to say goodbye to such a great staff. It was a week of sadness but also a week of excitement, Abruzzo said, as he start-



ABRUZZO

ed down a new path by opening a new school.

## Ruth Gauthier (Old Orchard Elementary)

Ruth Gauthier started with the Newhall District in 1986 as a sixth-grade teacher with nine years of experience. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish and history at UCLA and her California teaching credential at California State University, Northridge. Gauthier holds a master's degree and administrative services credential from California Lutheran University.

Gauthier has worked in Saugus, Simi Valley, Palm Springs, Santa Maria and Newhall in grades four, five and six. She was named assistant principal at Newhall, Peachland and Wiley Canyon before becoming principal of Old Orchard in 1994.

Gauthier said her favorite moment in her career came when Old Orchard Elementary was recognized as a California Distinguished School.



GAUTHIER

## Judy Upham (Peachland Elementary)

Judy Upham began her career in the Newhall School District as a counselor in 1986. Previously, she taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

After several years as a counselor, she was appointed assistant principal at Valencia Valley and Wiley Canyon elementary schools. In 2004, she was named principal at Peachland Elementary, where all three of her children attended.

Upham received her bachelor's degree from the University of Denver and continued her graduate work at UCLA, Pepperdine and CSU Bakersfield. She earned a master's degree in science and a pupil personal service credential in counseling from the University of Laverne, and her administrative credential from CSU Bakersfield.

Returning to Peachland as principal after thirteen years as a parent was one of Upham's favorite moments. "I have always felt very connected to the Peachland community and am committed to do all I can do to ensure



UPHAM

these children leave Peachland prepared to use their knowledge, skills and experiences here to be successful in their own lives," she said.

## Dr. Cynthia McCarty (Pico Canyon Elementary)

Cynthia McCarty started with the Newhall School District in February 2007 as the principal of Pico Canyon Elementary School. During her career, she served as a second, third and fifth-grade classroom teacher.

McCarty also served as a teacher specialist and was responsible for identification and monitoring of the English Language Learner program. In this capacity, she was responsible for categorical programs, multiple budgets, intervention programs and the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program.

McCarty then served as an assistant principal and had the opportunity to work in schools with academic challenges, as well as California Distinguished Schools. Prior to her assignment at Pico Canyon, she served as interim principal in a unified school district.

McCarty received her bachelor's degree from CSU Northridge; master's degree in education from CSU Los Angeles; and her doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.

One of the favorite moments in her career was working with a student who had been on independent study, as he had fought leukemia for more than a year. Once in remission, he returned to school and was able to rejoin his friends. Being a part of this experience included working with a student who had fallen behind academically, but the rewards gained through his excitement and motivation to be a part of the group far outweighed the challenges.

## Candace Fleece (Stevenson Ranch Elementary)

Candace Fleece started her career with the Newhall School District as a governing board member in 1992. She became a substitute teacher in 1996 and signed on full-time at Meadows Elementary and Stevenson Ranch in 1997. In 2004, Fleece was named assistant principal at Stevenson Ranch and then principal in 2007.

Fleece received her bachelor's degree



MCCARTY

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.

# Enterprise Zone Can Boost Your Business.

State Designation Offers Incentives, Tax Credits To Qualifying Employers.

City Will Pre-Screen Job Seekers For Eligibility.

By ANDREE WALPER,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATE,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone has had a busy first six months since its official designation on July 1. More than two hundred businesses have attended workshops to become better informed of tax benefits and employee vouchering regulations, and nearly two hundred fifty people have gone through the pre-screening process to determine if they might qualify for an enterprise zone voucher. In addition, enterprise zone staff has met individually with one hundred fifteen businesses to educate them on how to use the zone to their advantage.

More than ninety-seven percent of all commercial and industrial-zoned land in the city of Santa Clarita is included in the enterprise zone boundaries. The zone will provide local businesses, new business start-ups, and businesses relocating into Santa Clarita with a variety of benefits, incentives and tax credits that are expected to promote business investment and job creation.

Some of the advantages to having a business located with the enterprise zone include hiring tax credits, sales or use tax credits, business expense deductions, net interest deductions, and net operating loss carryover deductions.

The hiring tax credit is one of the most beneficial of these incentives. By hiring qualified employees, a business in the enterprise zone, can realize tax savings of more than \$36,000 per employee over a five-year period.

There are many ways for employees to qualify, including: individuals who live in targeted employment areas, individuals who have participated in qualified employment training programs, and individuals who have been

**THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA HAS UNVEILED ITS AD CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM.**

recently laid off, to name just a few. The tax credit is retroactive to employees hired after the Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone designation date of July 1, 2007.

To aid businesses in realizing this tax incentive, the city is pre-screening job seekers to determine if they might qualify. Qualified job seekers are given a certificate of eligibility that they can present to prospective employers to demonstrate that they could qualify their

business for this tax incentive.

In addition, city staff will work directly with local businesses to determine if employees hired since the July 1 designation date might be eligible. More information about this service is available online at [SCEnterpriseZone.com](http://SCEnterpriseZone.com).

In addition to the newly renovated Web site, the city has Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone brochures available at City Hall, the Santa Clarita Worksource

## Enterprise Zone Banners Hitting The Streets.

The City of Santa Clarita unveiled its newest advertising tool January 14 for promoting the local enterprise zone: one hundred street pole banners placed throughout the industrial and commercial areas of the city.

The banners will provide an awareness of the newly designated Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone while reminding businesses that they can save money just by being located "in the Zone."

The Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone covers more than eight thousand, five hundred acres, representing nearly ninety-seven percent of all commercial and industrial zoned land in the city.

A California state program, enterprise zone benefits include tax hiring credits, sales and use tax credits, business expense deductions, and net interest deductions for lenders. Enterprise zones lead to more jobs, less poverty, and long-term financial stability.

"The Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone is another great benefit to businesses located

in our city," said Mayor Bob Kellar. "Put this together with the city having no business license or utility user fee, and local businesses should realize significant savings at tax time. The city is dedicated to serving the business community, and bringing an enterprise zone to Santa Clarita should make businesses more successful by reducing their tax burdens and increase the number of local jobs available to our residents."

City staff members are available to answer questions regarding the program, set up individual appointments either at City Hall or at individual places of business, and will also pre-screen potential employees for certificates of eligibility that can lead to vouchers for tax credits for businesses.

For more information or to receive a Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone brochure, contact the city of Santa Clarita's Economic Development Division at 661/255-4347 or visit [SCEnterpriseZone.com](http://SCEnterpriseZone.com) on the Web.

Center, the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center, Valley Industrial Association, and the local office of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation. The brochure includes an extensive map of the enterprise zone boundaries and information on the benefits and incentives available to business

located in the Zone.

We also encourage you to contact the city of Santa Clarita's Economic Development Division at 661/255-4347. City staff will be happy to answer any and all questions regarding the zone, set up individual appointments either at City Hall or at your place of business, and pre-screen potential employees.

## Center Karate Kids Prevail. Newhall Community Center's Karate Team Comes Out On Top At National Tournament.

On January 25, 2008, sixteen members of the Newhall Community Center's karate team competed at the 2008 IMAC USA Martial Arts Winter Olympics in Las Vegas, Nevada and received 10 first place champions, four second, and two third place trophies.

# SCV Weather 101.

## Mother Nature Shaped The Face Of Santa Clarita.

By **DARRYL MANZER**,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

Rain, snow, fire, floods ... Newhall has it all.

Did you know Newhall exists because of a drought? How about the town being relocated because of the railroad and lack of water at its original site at Old Saugus?

Weather has been a huge factor in what happened and what will happen to the Santa Clarita Valley. Pick a year, any year, and the SCV has some sort of weather story. Rain, snow, fires, floods ... take the year 1962, for example:

Rock slides in Weldon Canyon and the Newhall Pass. Highway 99 closed over the summit in Gorman. The Santa Clara River was flowing bank-to-bank and still rising. Wiley, Pico and Placerita creeks were full and flowing over roads and outbuildings.

For a time, folks wondered if the new car wash north of Old Town Newhall would still be standing – or would it be washed down to the Santa Clara and out to sea?

The rains came in ever-increasing amounts. Some thought the Saugus Café and The Rib restaurants could be washed away by the churning, light brown waters. There were concerns in Castaic that the waters could reach the elementary school and county park. Val Verde was nearly cut off from Highway 126. You traveled up San Francisquito Canyon Road at your own risk because the water was flowing under and over the bridge just north of downtown Saugus (near present-day Lowe's).

In the early 1960s, flood



**Darryl Manzer.**



SCVHISTORY.COM

**FLOOD CONTROL HAS BEEN A LONG-RUNNING ISSUE IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.**

control was knowing you shouldn't build anything too close to a creek or river because those dry expanses of sand and scrub brush just might turn into a raging torrent, come a couple of inches of rain.

Then, unlike now, just about every creek and river was free of concrete. The paths they took were not hindered by any man-made channel; they were free-flowing and destructive in the power of a heavy rain coming in from the ocean.

Even the railroad was having problems. Washouts in Soledad Canyon and the tracks to the tunnel south were in danger of having a mudslide cover the only other major transportation route south out of Newhall. The way north was blocked by snow, and travel to the Antelope Valley was also hindered by high water and rock- and mudslides.

Same goes for heading west. Highway 126 just east of Fillmore was being undercut by the raging Santa Clara River. The SCV was about as isolated as it could get.

Local ranchers and farmers watched their fields flood and

fence lines slide down the hillsides. Cattle, sheep and horses knew enough to find high ground in the deluge, but some people didn't and got stuck in the waters.

The Newhall Land and Farming Company was concerned out the feed lot located where Magic Mountain sits today, as they were about the headquarters buildings not far from the river. It is called Castaic Junction for a reason: Castaic Creek joins the Santa Clara River there. Can we say, "flood"?

Meanwhile, back on our "ranch" in Pico Canyon, the creek was threatening to wash away the big barn. The old Wolcott barn across from the Felton School was full of calves, and we couldn't get over to feed them. Our chickens and hogs were on that side of the creek, too. We lost ten of the calves to respiratory infections and a lack of food.

Later that same winter, it snowed and isolated our valley once again. Fire season came, and the hills from Castaic to the San Fernando Valley were blackened. There were more floods and mudslides the following win-

ter. The cycle of Southern California weather hasn't stopped.

It was during those storms that a young geologist from the head office of Standard Oil was working in Pico Canyon for the company. He told us, "The world will run out of oil in the next twenty-five years."

During the snows of that year, some climatologists were claiming that the next ice age was soon to come – caused by all of the pollution in the air blocking the warmth of the sun.

Go figure. I don't think we can know what the weather will be doing in a couple of weeks, let alone in a hundred years. I'd like to be around to find out.

Old Henry Mayo Newhall did a pretty good job when he relocated his namesake town from what is now Saugus to its present location. The creeks are far away from the town center. The nearest low hills are not prone to mudslides, and the streets don't tend to flood in the heaviest rain.

He moved because the railroad moved the station and the new town needed water. They

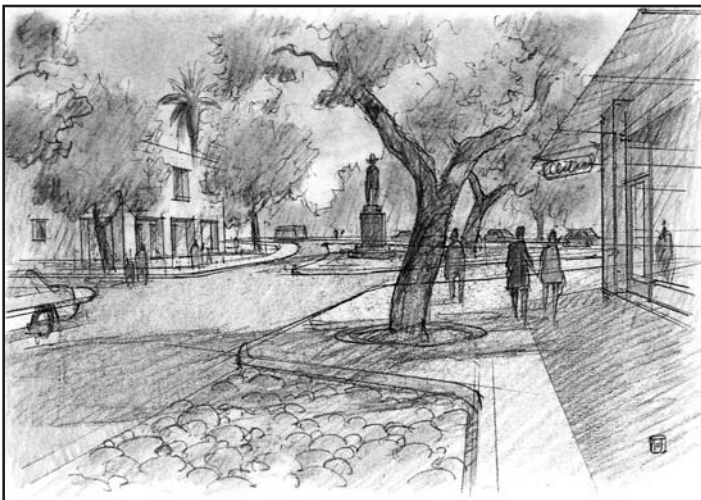
didn't have that in Saugus ... except when it rained. Then it had too much of a good thing.

Weather has been and will be a significant force of change in the SCV. Mr. Newhall was able to buy much of his land because of a prolonged drought that was bankrupting the original ranching families. Had it not been for that drought, he might not ever have bought the land, and a whole different history of the SCV could have been written.

You might find it odd that I call the fire season a type of weather. Strictly a Southern California phenomenon, but here is how I see the colors of the SCV seasons: green rain season followed by the brown dry season, just before the orange-red, dark smoke season, ending in the black (hillside) season.

This completes your SCV Weather 101 class for today. Everyone back in the pool.

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



**THIS ARTIST'S RENDERING SHOWS A DIFFERENT LOOK FOR THE OLD TOWN NEWHALL STREETScape.**

## Newhall, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

Newhall Redevelopment Committee and the Old Town Newhall Association are already deeply immersed in the next set of goals for the revitalization of Newhall.

A new marketing plan is well under way to bring more attention to the merchants of our Old Town (see [MyNewMainStreet.com](http://MyNewMainStreet.com)). The Santa Clarita Redevelopment Agency has purchased property to set the stage for the relocation and substantial expansion of the Newhall Library. The final two stages of the renaming of major streets approaching Newhall are almost complete. Several exciting development projects are nearing the approval stages. The entire

streetscape project is now well under design. By year's end, "My New Main Street" in Old Town Newhall may look like an entirely new place.

As you may have read in the last two editions of the Gazette, street name changes are taking place in Newhall. The City Council voted January 22 to change "San Fernando Road" to "Newhall Avenue" from Highway 14 north to Fifth Street. Public participation is ongoing in regard to the changes of the San Fernando Road name between Lyons Avenue and Magic Mountain Parkway, but they should wrap up and be completed in time for a final change in February.

Further efforts to improve traffic circulation and to beautify Newhall are also in the works. Plans for a traffic circle on Newhall Avenue adjacent to Hart Park

should be under way soon to help more commuters flow by Newhall during the morning and evening peak times.

Simple modifications to traffic lanes adjacent to the Jan Heidt Metrolink Station in Newhall may be implemented soon to reduce congestion when city transit buses stop at this critical transportation hub.

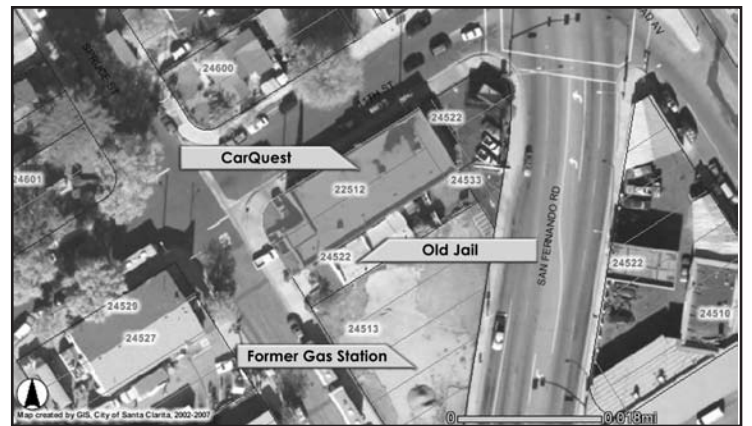
The entire streetscape project is under design to transform the "look" of Main Street, with substantially more landscaping; a new storm drain with clean storm water-friendly catch basins; antique-looking street lights with underground wiring; street furniture; and decorative paving at all intersections for a unique sense of place.

Public participation to discuss these changes will commence in February, so you will be able to provide input and follow the schedule to construction if you choose to participate.

The new Newhall Library is now firmly on the table, and preparations for public participation are being made now. While the tiny book box on Ninth and Walnut streets has worked hard and served the community well over the years, it is time to create a much bigger, more modern facility that provides an example of what a library can be in the twenty-first century.

A collaboration between the city, the county, and a large number of community groups will come together to create a custom SCV library that should set a new standard. This project will be very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.



## City Buys Property All Around Old Jail.

By **LEON WORDEN**,  
GAZETTE EDITOR.

The Santa Clarita City Council (acting as the Redevelopment Agency) voted unanimously to purchase the property adjacent to and immediately north of Newhall's historic Old Jail building, aka the Antique Flower Garden, which recently shut its doors.

The city is purchasing the property, occupied by CarQuest, for \$1.73 million. It will be assembled with the onetime gas station property already purchased by the city on the south side of the Old Jail.

The city is planning to use the combined property to erect the library and to make other public improvements identified in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.

The city made an offer last year for the Old Jail property, which sits between the two city-owned properties, but the offer was rejected by its owner, Manny Santana, who has said he intends to retain the historic structure. Initially a wooden struc-

ture built in the 1880s, the jail was expanded and refinished with plaster and stucco during the first decade of the 1900s.

Recognize the historic importance of the Old Jail building, which is listed as a historic asset in the city's General Plan, city officials have said they believe they can build around it as the library construction project moves forward.

The city made the successful offer for the CarQuest building at 24533 San Fernando Road in September. (CarQuest is not the owner of the building and will need to relocate.) When it approved the purchase in December, the City Council simultaneously approved a resolution declaring its intent to finance the sale through future redevelopment agency bonds.

Redevelopment agencies are largely self-financing to the extent that they receive a share of the increase in property taxes that accrue when redevelopment activities boost the value of properties in the redevelopment zone.

## Principals, CONT.

FROM PAGE 9.

in education at Syracuse University and her master's degree in education administration at California State University, Bakersfield.

Each time a student learns a new concept is her favorite moment. Fleece said when that happens, the student smiles. "Not the kind of contrived smile like when a photograph is being taken, but the kind of smile that fills a face," she said. "Everything about the student speaks joy, from standing taller to eyes dancing with brightness. Seeing that



FLEECE

transformation and being a part of that student's day is a privilege."

### Tammi Rainville (Valencia Valley Elementary)

Tammi Rainville began her career with the Newhall School District in February 2004 as an assistant principal at McGrath Elementary School. A year later, she applied for and was hired as the principal of Valencia Valley School.

Rainville began her teaching career with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She worked for ten years as a teacher, categorical programs adviser and assistant principal before



RAINVILLE

coming to the Newhall School District.

She completed her undergraduate and credential work at California State University, Northridge, then went on to complete her master's degree and administrative credential at National University.

A favorite moment in Rainville's career was her very first day as principal at Valencia Valley School. She remembers standing in the valet line, greeting the students, parents and teachers. "I don't think I have every received a warmer welcome than I did on that memorable day," she said.

### Alexis Yannich (Wiley Canyon Elementary)

Alexis Yannich began working in the Newhall School District in 1987, beginning as a teacher at Meadows School. She served as an assistant principal for five years at Valencia Valley, Stevenson Ranch

and Wiley Canyon and for the past four years has been the principal at Wiley Canyon.

Yannich earned her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and holds a master's degree in school counseling and educational leadership.

There are many memorable moments in an educational career, she said, the most recent being the National Blue Ribbon honor that was awarded to Wiley Canyon School. "Teachers, classified staff, parents, and students are all committed to one goal: working together towards student achievement," Yannich said. "To have that strong commitment acknowledged, and outstanding student achievement attained, was truly a wonderful moment for all."



YANNICH

# Coming 'Live' To Hart Park And Museum.

**An Evening of Jazz**  
**Saturday, February 2, 2008**  
**7 p.m.**

William S. Hart Park and Museum is bringing the spirit of jazz to the American West. Come hear Carlos Cuevas' jazz trio in the warmth of the William S. Hart Museum. Cuevas, pianist and composer, has been hailed as "accomplished and inventive" by Down Beat magazine. An artists' reception follows the performance. Call the Museum at 661/254-4584 for ticket availability and reservations.

Members \$20; Nonmembers \$25; Students \$15.

**A Celebration of Chaplin**  
**Saturday, March 8, 2008**  
**6 p.m.**

Join us in commemorating the eighty-fifth anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's "The Pilgrim." A Celebration of Chaplin will begin in William S. Hart Park's Hart Hall with a lecture on filming in the Santa Clarita Valley. The festivities continue in the

Hart Museum for a tour and talk about displayed Charlie Chaplin film memorabilia. Following the discussions and a catered dinner, guests will venture into the Saugus Train Station, where portions of "The Pilgrim" were filmed, for a screening. Seating is limited and ticket reservations are required. For more information and ticket reservations, call the Hart Museum at 661/254-4584.

**An Evening of Music with The**

**Sons of the San Joaquin: Sold Out**  
**Friday, April 25, 2008**  
**7 p.m.**

An enchanting evening in the living room of silent film star Bill Hart featuring The Sons of the San Joaquin in an intimate setting surrounded by paintings of Russell and Remington. For information call 661/286-4021 or visit [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org).

**Art at Hart**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2008**

**7 p.m.**

An exclusive tour of the priceless art and Western artifacts in silent film star Bill Hart's Spanish Colonial mansion followed by an artist's quick-draw and auction. Western artists create works of art in one hour's time while you watch. The works of art will be auctioned off, following the quick-draw. Petit buffet served. Tickets \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org) or by calling 661/286-4021.

## Saletore, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

Intern Program.

"It's an awesome program," Saletore said. "It doesn't matter if you are interested in art or museums. I was involved in developing and leading a junior volunteer program."

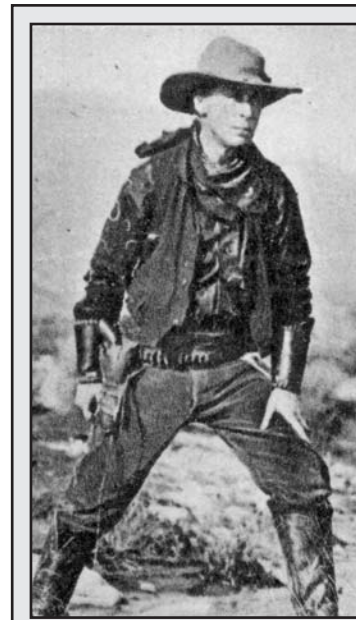
A turning point in her career came when the administrator at Fox, where she was interning, asked if she wanted to stay on part-time after her internship expired.

"He asked me what I wanted to do with my life if money didn't play a part," Saletore said. "I thought hard and realized I always wanted to work in a museum."

Although Saletore was majoring in math, she always had an interest in art and history, having volunteered at the Saugus Train Station since she was in elementary school.

Volunteering and enjoying history was bred into her, she said. Her mother, Pat Saletore, is the executive director of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society.

Ayesha Saletore took the part-time job and completed her education at California State University, Northridge, with a degree in business administration. She was hired



## About William S. Hart.

From [HartMuseum.org](http://HartMuseum.org).

William S. Hart was born in Newburgh, New York, on December 6, 1864. Hart started his acting career in his twenties.

At the age of forty-nine, Hart came west to Hollywood to start his movie career. Over the next eleven years, he would make more than sixty-five silent films, the last being "Tumbleweeds" in 1925.

In 1921, Hart purchased a ranch house and surrounding property. He built a twenty-two-room mansion which today houses Hart's collection of Western art, native American artifacts and early Hollywood memorabilia. Hart lived at the ranch nearly twenty years until his death in 1946. In his will, he gave his Horseshoe Ranch to the county of Los Angeles. It was to be set aside for the use and enjoyment of the public at no charge.

Today, the Horseshoe Ranch consists of two hundred sixty-five acres. The ranch house and the Hart residence are open to the public. Assortments of animals reside at Hart Park, including a small herd of bison that started as a gift from the Walt Disney Studios in 1962.

she is really doing a great job. She is an example of how volunteering can help your career, and I use her life all the time to talk to people about docenting with their children."

Asked if she has any regrets about not leaving Santa Clarita, Ayesha Saletore said she's happy here.

"Santa Clarita keeps me grounded," she said. "I've done a lot of traveling, and it's nice to have a home base where you are happy."

Saletore is currently working on the promotion of silent films. On March 8, in collaboration with the Historical Society, there will be a screening of Charlie Chaplin's film "The Pilgrim" in celebration of the movie's eighty-fifth anniversary. Saletore advises the public to check out the museum's Web page for upcoming series including "Music in the Mansion" and Cowboy Festival activities.

"The best thing about working here is the diversity I find," Saletore said. "There is something for everybody - in the museum, the park, and the collection. The volunteers are amazing, and we are always looking for more. It's always nice to come to work."

This is one hometown girl who didn't have to travel far to find her passion.

*For more information about events at the Hart Mansion or to volunteer, visit [www.hartmuseum.org](http://www.hartmuseum.org) on the Web.*

as the museum administrator, and along with a co-worker, Saletore trains and recruits volunteers to give tours to the public and to students through the museum's Educational Outreach Program.

Saletore also monitors the massive historical collection at the Hart Mansion.

"We are a member of the National History Museum (system)," she said. "We have the experts and the resources through them even though they are not physically at the museum."

Inside the mansion, Hart has

an impressive display of Western and native American art. There are three collectable display cases, and these items, along with an extensive Navajo rug collection, are rotated for public viewing as well as for the health of each item, Saletore said.

Although not a hunter, Hart also had a rather large collection of guns and rifles. "We don't display the handguns anymore due to a previous break-in. We now have extensive security."

Coupled with the museum is

a county park, and Saletore said she likes to think there is something for everyone at the Hart Mansion.

"It doesn't matter what your interest is - whether a picnic in the park or admiring the farm animals in our barnyard," she said. "We have a whole herd of bison, and we always have babies born."

"I grew up around this, but so many children in Santa Clarita haven't had this opportunity."

Pat Saletore said her daughter has really accomplished something at such a young age.

"I know I am prejudiced, but

## Newhall, CONT.

FROM PAGE 12.

exciting and will serve as a monument to the efforts so many people have and continue to put forth to

improve our entire community.

While all of these public-driven efforts begin to take root in Newhall, private development interests are also getting involved. Redevelopment is intended as a tool to help public and private investment create the changes necessary

to revitalize a neighborhood.

Several exciting projects are currently being discussed inside and outside of City Hall. The very first approval under the code provided in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan may be granted by the time you read this. The "Salazar Center," which is planned to be a

beautiful new structure right on San Fernando Road at Fourteenth Street, will have room for at least one large restaurant and a good amount of new retail space with underground parking. Should Mr. Salazar continue with the building, it will be the first private project constructed under the guidelines of

the specific plan.

City staff members are very excited about this project and several others that are in earlier stages of development. Stay tuned to the Gazette to read more about what is coming.

The year 2008 promises to be a very exciting one for Newhall.

## Editorial, CONT.

FROM PAGE 2.

Anne Darcy to George Pederson and Clyde Smyth and Carl Boyer and Laurene Weste and other mayors in between and since, official Santa Clarita muscled the political will to get the ball rolling. With a (then-assistant) city manager who had experience in redevelopment – Ken Pulskamp – to lead a competent team of government planners and economists who would handle the mechanics, there was a chance that things might begin to change.

And they did.

Vic Feany was a natural when the City Council appointed a redevelopment committee a dozen years ago to help with downtown revitalization. The committee crafted an architectural language for the area that capitalized on Newhall's historic flavor, and it devised incentives to entice property and business owners to improve their storefronts, maintenance yards and signage.

Subsidies were needed to arrest the blight. It was clear what direction Newhall was going without government intervention. Four hundred thousand dollars of public money filled Bob Martin's vacant space with the Canyon Theatre. Sixty-nine thousand helped transform the commercial building at Market and San Fernando into El Trocadero restaurant and the REP Theatre and more.

This money did not come from someone else's pocket. Most was borrowed against the future *increase* in property taxes that these redeveloped buildings would generate – increases that would not come unless they were redeveloped.

Other pots of money were tapped for major public amenities: an iconic Metrolink station for commuters, a contemplative plaza

**‘Today so much is happening in Old Town Newhall that it’s a challenge to stay on top of it all. Looking beyond the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, the city is reaching out to broad groups of “stakeholders” to formulate and implement a marketing strategy that will bring more events and publicity to the area.’**



CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

**BOTH BEHIND THE SCENES AND ON THE STREET, THE RATE OF CHANGE IN NEWHALL HAS BEEN BRISK. CAREFUL OBSERVERS WILL NOTICE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OLD TOWN TODAY AND OLD TOWN JUST ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN.**

for military veterans and their families, a state-of-the-art Community Center with wholesome programs for neighborhood youth.

It was a healthy start. Falling property values leveled off and slowly started to rise. Investors who wouldn't give Newhall a second thought a decade earlier pricked up their ears.

But the building codes were still wrong. More work needed to be done if private developers were going to take the effort to the next level and transform Old Town Newhall into a viable, thriving, sales tax-generating destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.

Official Santa Clarita again stepped up to the plate, drafting new plans that would allow developers to build the archetypal, multi-story buildings you're used to seeing in an Old Town, with upstairs residential units over ground-floor retail space.

Roads would be reconfig-

ured to create an Old Town ambience, and new government buildings, including a large library, would attract patrons who would see the new shops and restaurants.

And so it began anew. Feany, long a proponent of angled parking on San Fernando Road, was pleased when customers were able to back up to his store and load their trucks from the sidewalk. (Others considered back-in parking confusing; the city soon switched directions.)

The street names themselves were changed to embolden the sense of place. "San Fernando Road" through the middle of Old Town became "Main Street."

"San Fernando Road" will change north and south of Old Town, as well. From Fifth Street south to Highway 14, it will be "Newhall Avenue," and by the time you read this, its name from Lyons Avenue north to Magic Mountain Parkway may be changing, too.

It's a funny thing about street names. Some are quick to assume we are "ignoring our history" by losing the name, "San Fernando Road." As far as your editor is concerned, calling a street in this valley "San Fernando Road" was an accident of history.

You see, Santa Clarita was never part of the Rancho San Fernando. We were the Rancho San Francisco. When the padres established an outpost of the Mission San Fernando at Castaic Junction in 1804, they called it the Estancia de San Francisco Xavier

– not the Estancia de San Fernando.

Perhaps we could have called ourselves "San Francisco," but that name was taken. Instead we called our town "Newhall" for Henry Mayo Newhall, who purchased the Rancho San Francisco in 1875. (Our San Francisco, named for St. Francis Xavier, 1506-1552, had nothing to do with the "other" San Francisco, named for St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226. Besides, that San Francisco was a pueblo, not a rancho.)

In 1878, our first settlers laid out the town in its present location and named the streets. What we know today as "Main Street," they called "Spruce." (Newhall Hardware's address was 725 Spruce Street.)

In August 1954, the county of Los Angeles came along and took down the "Spruce Street" signs and replaced them with "San Fernando Road" – which made about as much sense then as it does now.

We're not in San Fernando. We're in Newhall, and the road name is going to tell you so – at least until somebody resurrects the name Tochanaga, the name of the original Indian settlement in Newhall prior to Spanish conquest.

Today so much is happening in Old Town Newhall that it's a challenge to stay on top of it all. Looking beyond the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, the city is reaching out to broad groups of "stakeholders" to formulate and implement a marketing

strategy that will bring more events and publicity to the area.

The strategy includes a new Web site, MyNewMainStreet.com, designed to attract young adults who might be interested in the sporting goods stores, coffee houses, ethnic restaurants and night life that Newhall does or soon will offer. (You will still find the Gazette and other resources at OldTownNewhall.com.)

At the same time, we're taking steps to preserve the best of what has existed in Newhall throughout the decades. It is not a matter of "out with the old, in with the new." It is "keep the old and add the new."

The Redevelopment Committee and city staff, along with the Historical Society and property owners, are actively working together to formulate a Historic Preservation Ordinance that will hopefully prevent Newhall's most important historic structures from being razed.

We should have more to report in the next edition, but at this point, things are moving in the direction of a temporary stopgap measure to prevent situations like the one we reported last year when Tex Williams' house was bulldozed and nobody knew it until after the fact.

Thinking back to 1995, we were certain the changes we see now would happen if the city and the community worked together – new private investment, public improvements, historic preservation, full occupancy, rising property values.

Where property values rise, of course, rents are sure to follow – boding ill for businesses that are barely hanging on. We saw it in 1914 when rents were raised on Newhall's main street, Railroad Avenue. Merchants responded by realigning their shops to face Spruce Street one block to the west, making their old back door their new front door. Business owners don't have it quite so simple today.

No doubt a lot of folks felt the blow when they lost the Old Town Newhall business they had known for sixty years at 725 Spruce Street. No, not Newhall Hardware, but the livery stable and feed store that preceded it (with a radio shop in between). The livery and feed store had served the needs of Newhall's equestrians from the very beginning. Now it was gone and replaced by – progress. People were driving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.

# A Newhall Tradition.

By **LEON WORDEN**,  
GAZETTE EDITOR.  
FROM **SCVHISTORY.COM**.

From its humble beginnings in 1876, the town of Newhall always had a General Store to serve its growing population. All the basic necessities, from groceries to farm implements, could be found in stores whose wooden frontages bore the names of men like George Campton, Emil Chaix, James Gulley and Albert Swall.

It is a tradition that continued into the latter half of the 20th Century when Don Guglielmino opened Newhall Hardware at 24322 San Fernando Road in Old Town Newhall. Construction began in mid-April, 1947, and four months later – on Saturday, August 16, 1947 – the venerable establishment opened its doors for the first time.

In those days, a fifty-by-one hundred thirty-five-foot lot



**THE NEWHALL HARDWARE CREW SHOWS ITS BICENTENNIAL SPIRIT IN 1976.**

on nearby Newhall Avenue could be purchased for \$950. Safeway (then next door to Newhall Hardware) offered ground beef for twenty-nine cents per pound, coffee for forty cents per

pound, onions for five cents per pound and Kool cigarettes for fifteen cents per pack. Playing down the street at the American Theater was Gene Autry in "Sioux City Sue." General admission was fifty cents, and playing times were available by phoning Newhall 140. Hogan and Hadley's Firestone offered tune-ups for \$2.50 and brake jobs for one dollar. Acme Beer introduced a brand-new concept to the west coast: the no deposit-no return beer bottle.

Newhall Hardware quickly developed a reputation as a place where any imaginable tool or house and garden supply could be found. In 1998, rather than close the store upon his retirement, Guglielmino sold the venerable establishment to his longtime manager, Victor Feany, who kept the tradition alive.

Known as "The only real hardware store in the Santa Clarita Valley," they meant it when they said, "If we don't have it, you don't need it."

## An Ode To Newhall Hardware.

By **DANIEL HON, Esq.**  
FROM **THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES.**

*This story by the late Dan Hon was originally published in the Old Town Newhall Gazette's November-December 1995 edition.*

"Do you carry widgets?" the man asked.

They walked to the third aisle that was no more than five or six feet

wide. Both sides had shelves stacked so high with merchandise that one needed a step stool to reach the top.

The clerk pointed to a shelf at about knee level and said, "Here are the widgets we carry, sir. Can I help you further?"

There were at least four different kinds of widgets. The man looked confused.

"What do you want one for?" the clerk, who was and is the manag-

er of the store, asked. His name is Vic Feany.

"I need to put one in the gizzapooch under the gummer," the man answered. "It stopped working."

"Well then, this is the one you need," Vic said as he picked up the widget. "Do you need anything else?"

"No, that will do just fine." They walked to the cash register at the front of the store. The man

looked around as they walked down the aisle. He saw pots, pans, nails, tools of every description – even a gun shop with rifles, pistols, shotguns and ammunition.

There were gadgets that he hadn't the slightest idea how to identify.

"How long has the store been here?" he asked.

"I've been here for over twenty years," Vic answered.

Don Guglielmino, the owner, walked up.

"Newhall Hardware opened in 1947," he told the man.

Don Guglielmino.

He helped finance the Santa Clarita National Bank that opened in the mid-1960s. He and Elisha "Aggie" Agajanian ran that bank for years. Don G.'s financial genius and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.**

## Hardware, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

industry to businesses and the average homeowner, Newhall Hardware has always been more than nuts and bolts. It is about friends, family, and that ever elusive plumbing part that, if not in stock, owner Vic Feany or his staff would find for you. It is customer service – something that is missing from the big box stores that are springing up all over Santa Clarita Valley.

People like to say, "If only these walls could talk." That would be so true at Newhall Hardware when it comes to the history of Santa Clarita. From its earliest days in 1947 when Newhall Hardware catered to the horse farms and family-owned businesses, the store has grown and changed with the times.

Feany has been at the helm of the store for the past ten years, and with the redevelopment of the downtown area on track, he has been excited about the changes that have been visualized. He serves on

the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, and he and his staff have enjoyed being involved in all the activities taking place in Old Town such as the Fourth of July Parade and December holiday festivities.

"It's a terrible thing, and we've lost page in the history of Newhall," said City Councilwoman Laurene Weste. "I'm sorry he couldn't hold on."

Weste, a resident of Newhall since the early 1960s, has been a huge proponent of the revitalization of the downtown area. Feany and the rest of the staff at Newhall Hardware are the type of individuals who roll up their sleeves and work tirelessly to volunteer for community events, she said, including keeping the sidewalks clean and the street plants watered.

"We hope we can bring back some of the things we've lost – the little theater, the quaint restaurants and the little hardware store. That's got to be the goal," Weste said. "As people repopulate the older areas of town, they will embrace the special, unique character of the past."

For now, it's about economics. And in this day and age, you might



**NEWHALL HARDWARE IS HOLDING ITS FINAL SALE.**

as well add convenience, because there is a big-box hardware store on just about any corner of town, and they always have plenty of parking.

It's a sad time for Newhall. Newhall Hardware will be missed.



## Editorial, CONT.

FROM PAGE 14.

automobiles through Newhall now. Not enough customers to maintain the old feed store.

Not that the scattered ranches of the Santa Clarita Valley didn't need feed stores. They did. But by this time, other feed stores had opened in other parts of town, closer to the ranches.

Newhall Hardware was just what this growing suburb needed when Don Guglielmino opened his doors in 1947. His store served us well when it was the only one of its kind, and it survived even in the face of competition by providing exemplary service and hard-to-find wares.

In the end it was not enough.

Like its equestrian predecessor, Newhall Hardware was crippled when its customer base moved away and newer, larger – albeit perhaps colder – competitors opened up where the people and the money were.

And consumer tastes have changed. Today's shoppers are more apt to patronize a Restoration Hardware store with its fake "old stuff" than a Newhall Hardware with authentic old stuff.

It will be interesting to see whether the owners of the building, the heirs of the man who founded Newhall Hardware, will be able to find a tenant to last the next sixty years.

Thank you, Vic, Diane and all the crew we've come to know. You are our extended family and we appreciate the time and attention you gave us.

## Hon, CONT.

FROM PAGE 15.

Aggie's salesmanship made it a success.

One day, Aggie wanted to borrow \$500 from the Bank of America that was on San Fernando Road in Old Newhall. The long-time manager told Aggie he needed his father's permission to get the money.

It was after World War II, and Aggie had served in the Army. By the time he asked for the loan, Aggie had become a success in his own right.

He was angry. Aggie is glorious when he is mad!

Someone suggested he start his own bank. He bought a ticket to Washington, D.C., and got on the plane. As he says, one of his body parts squeezed and parted at great speed all the way to our Capitol.

He walked into the bureaucracy that controls the creation of national banks. Anyone who knows Aggie knows that he is neither shy nor quiet. He walked into the office, and in his best stentorian voice asked, "How do I start a bank?"

Thus, Santa Clarita National Bank opened on Lyons Avenue and became an instant success.

Largely because of the financial genius of Don Guglielmino and the salesmanship of Aggie, they opened branches. They sold the bank to Security Pacific, which was later taken over by the Bank of America. Strange, how parts of our lives come full circle!

"I sold it at just the right time," Don G. told me.

Long before, Don G. bought and still proudly drives a Lamborghini automobile.

You cannot believe how many times I have walked around that car in admiration. I used to race cars, street and otherwise, in the '50s. I would have killed myself if I had something that powerful in those days.

In any event, Newhall Hardware opened in 1947. If you need a widget, you can get it there. The discount warehouse stores will never have heard of it. Newhall Hardware will have it in stock, or Vic will know how to get it.

When you go in, introduce yourself to Vic and to Don G., if he is there. They are both worthwhile men.

These stories are our heritage. We tell and re-tell them so that we may preserve them, as we must preserve and renovate Old Newhall.

Good retail stores. Good coffee shops. Dressed-up frontages in Victorian, Old West and Old California styles will go well with Mr. Hart's mansion and the Historical Society's village.

Let us keep Santa Clarita a great place to live.

*Attorney Dan Hon, who hung his shingle at Market Street and San Fernando Road (Main Street) in Old Town Newhall, across and down from Newhall Hardware, died in December 1996. Don Guglielmino and Elisha "Aggie" Agajanian are also deceased.*

## Boy Scouts Build Bridge At Nature Center.

Life Boy Scout Gerardo Ruiz, age seventeen, needed a project to finish his scouting and advance to Eagle, the highest rank in the Scouting program. After much research, he decided that he would like to build a bridge over one of the creeks at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center.

Placerita had three bridges previously built by Scouts and volunteers, but there was one more creek crossing that was dangerous during rains due to the fact that Placerita Canyon Road drains into the little creek, and it can become swollen with fast-moving water.

The Ecology Trail, where the bridge was built, is a year-round favorite trail for kids and



docents. In addition to the need for a safe crossing, Gerardo spent time in Placerita Natural Area when he was a young Scout, so it was time to do his part.

Gerardo's Scout troop, No. 582, is from the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints in Canyon Country. Gerardo, or "Jerry" as his friends call him, gathered forty-two Scouts, parents and other volunteers to help him complete this project.

—Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel.

## Mulholland, CONT.

FROM PAGE 7.

Los Angeles voters approved bond issues in 1905 to finance the purchases made by Eaton, and in 1907 to finance the construction of the aqueduct.

Mulholland designed and supervised the building of the aqueduct. What seemed like an impossible feat was accomplished between 1908 and 1913, as the 233-mile-long aqueduct was built on time and within budget. The water flowed solely by gravity without the need for any pumping stations.

The project also featured the five-mile-long Elizabeth Tunnel. The aqueduct would pass through San Francisquito, Bouquet, Soledad and Placerita canyons on its way to the terminus in the San Fernando Valley.

With the opening of the aqueduct in 1913, Mulholland became a huge hero to the people of Los Angeles. He was asked to run for mayor, and neighborhoods and a public highway were named for him.

But to the people of the Owens

Valley, Mulholland was reviled. They felt duped by Eaton's land purchases and complained that Los Angeles had stolen their water without adequate compensation.

Beginning in 1924, Owens Valley locals began attacking the aqueduct, dynamiting some sections and letting water loose into the valley, in what would become known as the Owens Valley Water Wars. This and other factors – such as the aqueduct crossing the San Andreas Fault – led Mulholland to build a series of reservoirs to provide Los Angeles with a reserve of water close-by in the event of a disruption of the aqueduct's operation.

The last of these reservoirs would provide the "fall" part of the William Mulholland saga.

The St. Francis Dam was completed in 1926. Mulholland was greatly responsible for building the dam, which turned out to be flawed both in design and in geologic location. Soon after the reservoir reached full capacity in March 1928, it collapsed and sent a 180-foot-high wall of water cascading down San Francisquito Canyon and into the Santa Clara River Valley, killing an estimated 450 to 600 people in the second-worst disaster in California

history. Mulholland took full responsibility and was never the same. He died in 1935 a broken man.

But no one can take away the magnificent accomplishment that to this day provides water for Los Angeles. Without Mulholland's aqueduct, neither Los Angeles nor Santa Clarita could have grown into the cities we know today.

Drivers in the Santa Clarita Valley pass by the aqueduct every day as it courses through various canyons, then up over the Newhall Pass to its terminus at the Los Angeles Reservoir in Sylmar. The original cascade of water can still be seen when traveling on Interstate 5 at the southern end of the Newhall Pass.

His hero status would forever be tarnished by the St. Francis Dam disaster fifteen years later. But on a fine November day in 1913, Mulholland was truly on top of the world.

For more information on William Mulholland and the St. Francis Dam Disaster, come see the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's museum and docents at the Saugus Train Station every Saturday and Sunday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., or visit scvhistory.com on the Internet.

## What Kind Of Library Do You Want? Vote Now!

The city of Santa Clarita, the county of Los Angeles and the county Public Library system are conducting a "needs assessment" to determine the makeup of a new library in Newhall. Residents are encouraged to complete an online survey available on the city's Web site at

www.santa-clarita.com. The survey will be available until March 15, and results will be presented at a future community meeting. For more information about the library project, call Management Analyst Ingrid Hardy at City Hall, 661/286-4068.