



The Gazette.

5 CENTS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2008

YEAR 14, NUMBER 3

Street Art Festival Returns To Newhall.

**For First Time, It's The
"Main Street" Art Festival.**

By JENNI SHADLE,
ARTS & EVENTS COORDINATOR,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The Santa Clarita Street Art Festival will highlight a spectrum of artistic talent in Old Town Newhall on September 27 and 28.

Sponsored by Lockheed Federal Credit Union, this exciting two-day festival will be located along Main Street between Lyons Avenue and 5th Street.

The Street Art Festival is a free outdoor event, open to the public, and features live entertainment: local and international dance performances, live music, fine arts and crafts, hands-on art activities, and the fine art of street painting.

The highlight of the festival is the Street Painter Block, sponsored by Glen Ivy Day Spa, where you can watch the unique process and display of featured and guest street painters on Main Street.

All weekend long, watch street painters create a work of art, from a beginning outline to the final masterpiece. The four featured street painters for this year are
CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.



SCOTT GROLLER

VISITORS TO THE FESTIVAL CAN WATCH GUEST ARTISTS CREATE PASTEL ART MASTERPIECES ON MAIN STREET.

Downtown Projects Moving Forward.

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

As mentioned in the last edition of the Gazette, the city of Santa Clarita completed contract negotiations with an award-winning architect to design the new Newhall Library.

Several public meetings have already been held to discuss the size and makeup of this exciting anchor to the Old Town Newhall redevelopment area. The first official public workshop for the design of the library was held Wednesday, August 20, at Hart Hall.

A diverse and exiting group of community volunteers with varied interests in the library assembled to hear introductions and brief presentations from Richard D'Amato, principal architect for civic buildings at LPA Inc. Rick is a dynamic presenter and excels in the art of public participation.

While he did explain some of the theories and constraints present in the complex

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LEON WORDEN

MAKING IT FIT – Participants in an August 20 workshop were given proportionally sized cutouts of library and parking facilities and were instructed to make them fit onto the future Newhall Library site on Lyons Avenue opposite the terminus of Main Street. The next workshop is scheduled for September 30 at 6 p.m. at Hart Hall.

Placerita Teacher Named Best In District.

**Parr To Represent Local Schools
In County Competition.**

By PAT WILLET,
WILLIAM S. HART UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Christine Parr, an English Language Development teacher and ELD coordinator at Placerita Junior High School, has been named Teacher of the Year for the William S. Hart Union High School District. She will represent the district in Los Angeles County competition, part of the

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The Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

EDITORIAL.

City Council Takes Step To Preserve Historic Buildings.

If you're a regular Gazette reader, you know we emphasize Newhall's history.

In this edition, you'll read about silent screen star Bill Hart, the oil workers out at Mentryville, and more.

Why? Because history sets Newhall apart from other Southland communities.

California's first documented gold discovery. The dawn of the state's oil industry. The earliest Western filming. Folks in Newhall did it all – some of it before there even was a "Newhall."

Many other cities have to fake it if they want to create an Old Town. Not Santa Clarita. Not in Newhall.

For a community so rich in history, you'd think our city elders would have passed laws long ago to prevent the demolition of historic structures that were personally financed by Bill Hart, or built out of lumber from the cabins in Mentryville.

But no.

Yes, the Historical Society has worked long and hard since 1975 to protect historic buildings; since cityhood in 1987, our municipal leaders have recognized the value of our history – both as a metaphor for a shared identity and as an exploitable resource in a tourism economy, Melody Ranch being perhaps the prime example.

Not until August 2008,

though, was something done about it. That's when the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to prohibit the demolition of more than sixty historic and "potentially historic" structures in Santa Clarita, primarily in Newhall.

The new Historic Preservation Ordinance protects certain identified properties from demolition or major alteration.

What's "major" alteration? Well, Gazette readers might remember the Tex Williams house. The owners of the former home of the popular 1940s Western singer pulled a remodeling permit and literally remodeled it to the ground. There was nothing on the books to prevent it.

Ironically, the new ordinance would not have saved the Tex Williams house, even though it was in Newhall, and even though its "alteration" got the ball rolling on the new ordinance.

The ordinance protects only the properties that are listed in Santa Clarita's General Plan and the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. (The Tex Williams house was on neither.)

In 1991 when Santa Clarita was new, the city adopted its first General Plan – the document that guides the development of the city. General plans assess all sorts of things, from transportation infrastructure to air quality, water avail-

ability to cultural resources.

Historic buildings (and non-buildings such as Beale's Cut) are considered cultural resources. Our General Plan lists thirty-three such resources, from the Hart Mansion to certain private homes. They are finally protected under the new ordinance.

In truth, there are more than thirty-three historic assets in and around our city. There are some glaring omissions in the General Plan (remember, this document was drafted when the city was very young, and it is only being updated now, nearly two decades later.)

Absent from the 1991 General Plan list is the American Theater, aka American Legion Hall, built by Bill Hart in Newhall in 1940. Absent is the Saugus Speedway, whose grandstands and out-buildings date to the mid-1920s when the racetrack was a rodeo grounds. Absent is the Harry Carey Ranch in Saugus (now a county park surrounded by the Tesoro Del Valle development).

Yes, the Western movie star's ranch is outside city limits, but the General Plan isn't limited to the city. Mentryville and the Oak of the Golden Dream are on the list, and they're in unincorporated county territory.

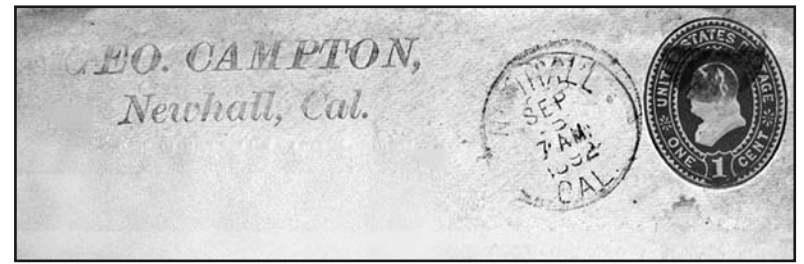
So the new Historic Preservation Ordinance looks beyond the General Plan and includes properties listed in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the document that guides redevelopment.

The Specific Plan lists properties in Newhall that are "potentially historic." In drafting the plan, the city hired a consultant who surveyed properties in Newhall and identified those that warranted further investigation to determine whether they were truly historic – such as the American Theater. (It's on the Specific Plan list.)

That investigation has not yet happened, it needs to happen, and the City Council has indicated that it will happen.

In the meantime, the new Historic Preservation Ordinance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.



From The Mailbag.

New Library Will Promote Literacy, Anchor Revitalization.

Dear Editor,

A new library in downtown Newhall will bring a number of benefits to our community.

As the superintendent of schools in a district that includes the redevelopment area, I was pleased to serve on the city's Newhall Library Committee because I knew a modern library would be a valuable asset for the Newhall area.

I also write this letter as a parent of children who used the Newhall branch library and as someone who was involved in bringing a small theater to Old Town Newhall as part of the effort to draw people to the area.

Libraries have changed immensely since the Newhall library was built. A new library in downtown Newhall can serve not only as a resource for students and adults, but also as a repository for the community's artifacts, a connection to cyberspace – and the wealth of resource that implies – and a community gathering place.

As superintendent, I envision a safe place where students can go after school hours for research, assistance, motivation and guidance. I see a place that can establish beneficial partnerships with our elementary schools.

As a parent I know that a pleasant and welcoming space with an up-to-date and expansive collection will further encourage community literacy.

As a resident I know that the library will anchor a neighborhood revitalization that is sorely needed. A new library capping off Main Street will be a terrific municipal "bookend"

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THE COMMUNITY HAS OUTGROWN THE CURRENT NEWHALL BRANCH LIBRARY.

The Gazette.

DISTRIBUTION: FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND.

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Fall Is Jam-Packed With Progress, Events.



**Message From
The Chairman**

By PHIL ELLIS

It seems like just yesterday that the days were getting longer and longer, yet here we are with summer evaporating into fall. While time is passing quickly, so are the days we have to wait for all of the exciting things going on in Newhall.

The Farmers' Market on Market Street is booming each Thursday night from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Milder evenings will allow for this event to continue with more and more special guests, fresh food and fun as the heat abates and the shadows lengthen.

Just around the corner on Main Street on September 27 and 28 is the Street Art Festival, which promises to be better than ever this year. With associated events such as the Pow Wow going on at Hart Park and the Hispanic business conference over at the Newhall Community Center, the last week in September promises to be an exciting month for Old Town Newhall.

The Newhall Redevelopment Committee also has kept its hand in moving important Old Town capital projects forward, as you can read about in more detail else-

'The Farmers Market on Market Street is booming each Thursday night ... Milder evenings will allow for this event to continue with more and more special guests, fresh food and fun as the heat abates and the shadows lengthen.'

where in this paper.

The Redevelopment Committee is dedicated to continuing this progress and is available the first Monday evening of each month for

discussions about it. The public is always invited to attend redevelopment meetings in the Century Room on the first floor of Santa Clarita City Hall at 7 p.m.

New Manager To Lead Newhall Redevelopment.

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

Arminé Chaparyan joined the city of Santa Clarita in early September as the new Redevelopment Manager.

Arminé was born in Armenia and moved with her family to Pasadena in 1987. She was fascinated by the variances in cultures and the overall differences in the communities. In particular, she was curious to find out how a democratic form of government provided services and facilities to its residents.

This interest in government ultimately led Arminé to obtain a degree in political science from UCLA and a graduate degree in public administration from USC.

Mrs. Chaparyan worked full-time while attending school and has experience with different levels of government, having worked for the state of California and later the city of West Covina. During this journey, she discovered her passion for community development, including redevelopment and affordable housing.

While working for the city of West Covina, Arminé initiated a



ARMINÉ CHAPARYAN

downtown revitalization project that involved completing various community surveys and designing a vision for the downtown area.

During her tenure, she worked on a variety of redevelopment projects, brought new business opportunities to West Covina, and helped raise more than \$5 million in grant funding for various city projects and programs.

After leaving West Covina, Arminé worked for Rosneow Spiveck Group (RSG) as an associate consultant. There she counseled various levels of government entities on their redevelopment activities, including adopting new redevelopment areas, helping develop realistic implementation plans, and analyzing cash flow.

Her exposure to different aspects of redevelopment was crucial to her most recent role with the city of Ontario. There, Arminé oversaw the city's CARES program, providing a neighborhood beautification program to 250 to 350 homes per year. She also worked on the Ontario Town Square Project, a \$180 million downtown renovation that included several phases and the creation of affordable housing.

Arminé is passionate about creating livable communities that embrace the history, culture and unique characteristics that exemplify a community.

She is excited about her new role in the city of Santa Clarita and looks forward to exploring various opportunities for growth and expansion in Old Town Newhall, while preserving the history and culture that make this area so special.

What's Happening With The North Newhall Plan?

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

Capitalizing on the successful planning effort that resulted in the City Council's approval in 2005 of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the city of Santa Clarita has initiated the first stage to create a North Newhall Specific Plan.

Located adjacent to and north of Old Town Newhall, the boundaries of the two hundred thirteen-acre North Newhall project include 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.

Before creating a potential land and circulation plan for North Newhall, the project team interviewed scores of community and public agency stakeholders and conducted multiple community workshops. 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.

Although there is not a formal proposed land use project, featured characteristics that arose out of the public participation and community outreach process included:

- * An equestrian center north of Placerita Creek;
- * A regional park south of Placerita Creek;
- * An off-street multi-use trail east of Railroad Avenue (former San Fernando Road);
- * Approximately six hundred fifty residential units of varied housing types;

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SCVHISTORY.COM

Santa Clarita Valley
History In Pictures



'Flavors Of Life' To Benefit Senior Center.

17th Annual Benefit Auction To Help Home Delivered Meals Program.

The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center Foundation is inviting lovers of fine wine and international cuisine to help celebrate the "Flavors of Life" while at the same time raising funds to help local seniors in need.

The Foundation is hosting the 17th Annual Benefit Auction 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Mann Biomedical Park in Valencia. All proceeds will benefit the SCV Senior Center's Home Delivered Meals and related programs.

"This year's event is a spe-

cial tribute to the international 'Flavors of Life' that are reflected in the cultural backgrounds of the many seniors who benefit from the Senior Center's vital services," said Kathy Crone, director of development for the Senior Center. "We're excited about the cuisine, the wines and the live entertainment that will be part of this celebration."

Guests at the event will experience a five-course buffet with an international flavor, provided by Be A Guest catering.

A live jazz quartet from Tony Capko Entertainment will perform, and guests will also have the chance to bid on numerous live and silent auction items including rare premium wines, special "thrill rides"

and other unique opportunities.

Previously held at Juan Alonso's fine dining restaurant, Le Chene, and broadly known for the past 16 years as the Wine Auction, this year's SCV Senior Center

Foundation Benefit Auction will launch a new era at a new location while also paying tribute to its history.

Among the festivities will be a salute to former Santa Clarita Mayor Jo Anne Darcy, a longtime community activist and senior advocate who was a driving force behind the inception of the wine auction and its establishment as one of the community's most eagerly anticipated events. Fittingly, the Santa Clarita City Council



is serving as the honorary chair of the event.

"We're so grateful for the people like Jo Anne Darcy and Juan Alonso who pioneered the event and have made the Senior Benefit Auction so successful

over the years," Crone said.

Individual tickets to the SCV Senior Foundation Benefit Auction cost \$70. Special VIP tickets – which include entry via horse-drawn carriage and admission to premium tastings – are available for \$100 each.

Tables and a variety of sponsorship opportunities are also available for community-minded businesses and individuals. More information is available online – and tickets and tables of 10 can be purchased via Paypal or credit card by visiting the Foundation's website, www.scvseniorfoundation.org. Reservations and additional information about the benefit auction are also available by calling the SCV Senior Center at 661-259-9444.

Old Town Newhall Events

SEPTEMBER

- 17 - John Boston's History of the Santa Clarita Valley Class - Hart Park/Heritage Junction
- 18, 25 - Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market - Market Street
- 20 - Day for Kids - Newhall Park
- 27-28 - Hart of the West Native American Pow-Wow - Hart Park
- 27-28 - Street Art Festival - Downtown Newhall
- 27 - Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration - Community Center
- 30 - Newhall Library Community Workshop - Hart Hall at Hart Park

OCTOBER

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market - Market Street
- 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 30-31 - Heritage Haunt - Hart Park/Heritage Junction
- 18 - Heritage Haunt Pumpkin Festival - Hart Park/Heritage Junction



City of
SANTA CLARITA

LOOSE GOOSE FESTIVAL.

The Loose Goose is a personal wine purveyor, consultant, and event company headquartered in Old Town Newhall. The company provides a full range of wine tasting services and will host The Loose Goose Wine Festival on October 2-5 in Santa Clarita. The festival will have close to 100 different wineries to entertain an estimated 7,500 visitors. For more information visit www.loosegoosefestival.com.



City, Volunteers Team Up To Clean Up River In Newhall.

Fourteenth Annual River Rally Designed To Preserve Natural Estuary.

The city of Santa Clarita's 14th annual River Rally will be kicking off the fall events this season with the river clean-up and environmental expo on Saturday, September 20th. This event will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. off the Via Princessa Bridge and Wiley Canyon. The river clean up will involve removing trash from the Santa Clara River, the last natural river in Southern California. The City will be providing gloves, trash bags, snacks, and special giveaways to those participating in the River Rally.

"To date thousands of volunteers have collected more than two hundred seventy thousand pounds of trash and debris from the Santa Clara River," said Travis Lange, the city's environmental services manager. "It is important to remember that every little bit helps when keeping Santa Clarita clean."

The environmental expo at the River Rally event will provide information about important issues such as recycling, air quality, water conservation, pollution prevention and open space preservation. There will also be a free bike valet at the River Rally, so arrive in style and valet your bike.

Participating volunteers should wear sturdy closed-toe shoes, appropriate clothing for walking in the riverbed and plenty of sunscreen. Animals are not permitted on site during the River Rally Clean-up.

For more information on River Rally, go to www.santa-clarita.com/environment or contact the city's Environmental Services Division at 661/286-4098 or environment@santa-clarita.com.

Heritage Junction Pumpkin Fest Offers Family Fun.

October 18 Event Includes Contests, Trick-Or-Treating, Animal Shows, Spooky Tours.

By **SCOTT SIVLEY,**
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Heritage Junction at Hart Park will be the stage for one of Newhall's newest events. The Heritage Haunt Pumpkin Festival will be held October 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to the public.

Events are scheduled throughout Newhall, with trick-

or-treating on Main Street and a full list of activities at Hart Park.

Start the day by picking up a trick-or-treat bag and map at Hart Park. Follow the map to the different businesses in Old Town Newhall and collect your reward.

Following your trek through Old Town, venture over to Hart Park for pumpkin carving.

A contest will be open for kids in two age groups. Free pumpkins will be available to the first one hundred contestants. Contestants can also bring their own pumpkin with no size limit to enter the contest.

Following the contest, all

the pumpkins will be put on display at Heritage Junction for a lighting ceremony at 7 p.m.

Families can also enjoy two shows that will be presented in Hart Hall. Entomologist Brent Karner of the Natural History Museum will present a Halloween Bug show at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Placerita Canyon Wildlife Reserve will present a Halloween Animal Show at 10 a.m. and noon.

Heritage Junction will host backstage tours of Heritage Haunt, the SCV's greatest haunted house. Visitors will be taken through the Newhall

Ranch House and see how a high-tech haunt is made and run using all the tricks of the trade.

Not satisfied? Create your own haunt maze in the Haunt Saloon.

The American Paranormal Research Association (APRA) will be at the Saugus Train Sta-

tion showing how they use their equipment to Ghost Hunt and show some of their findings from the Heritage Junction Houses.

In front of the Mitchell Adobe School House visitors can pan for gold and see if they hit the mother lode!

Along with events for the Pumpkin Festival, the William S. Hart Mansion and Museum will be open for tours throughout the day. The SCV Historical Society will also provide guided tours of the Saugus Train Station Museum and historic homes. Bring the whole family for a Haunting good time!



HERITAGE HAPPENINGS...

'SCV HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS.'

John Boston's History of the Santa Clarita Valley Class With Mr. SCV, John Boston

To be held at various locales throughout the SCV
Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm,
Sept. 17 – Nov. 19
Registration Fee \$120 + \$20
Materials Fee
To Register Call 254-1275



Excess Freight & Baggage Sale

Garage Sale Fundraiser to benefit restoration of the Historic Pardee House
Drop off your old stuff at the Saugus Train Station
Saturday, Sept. 20, 8am
Come by and browse
For info & drop-off times call Cathy Martin (661/259-0059) or Pat Saletore (661/254-1275)



Heritage Haunt: Curse of the Ghoul Mines

Best in the SCV!
Featuring:
Haunted Newhall Ranch House, Live Bands, Theatrical Dance Production of Sleepy Hollow, Musical

Light Show, Photo Opportunities with Haunted Scenes, Heritage Haunt Souvenirs
Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Popcorn • Snacks • Drinks
Scare Zones
At Heritage Junction Friday & Saturday Nights
Oct 10-11, Oct 17-18, Oct 24-25; Thurs. – Sat. Nights, Oct 30-NOV 1
Ticket Prices:
August-September \$8; October \$13
Call 661/254-1275 for details



"Flickers at the Junction" Classic Movie Series

Lon Chaney in "Phantom of The Opera"
Buster Keaton in "The Haunted House"
Special Guest Carla Laemmle
With live accompaniment by Silent Era Pianist Bob Mitchell
Saturday, October 4, 6 p.m.
Outdoors at Heritage Junction – Bring Lawn Chairs & Blankets
Donation \$5, Free Popcorn

Heritage Haunt Community Blood Drive

Donate blood to the American Red Cross and receive a Free Ticket to Heritage Haunt
Wednesday, October 1, 2pm-8pm
Saugus Train Station
For more info call Scott Sivley (661/254-1275)



Heritage Haunt Pumpkin Festival

Featuring:
Pumpkin Carving Contest, Bugs of Halloween Show, Back Stage Tours of the Heritage Haunt, Gold Panning, Tours of Heritage Junction, Ghost Stories of the Old West, Design Your Own Haunted Maze, Roaming Heritage Haunt Characters
Free to everyone!
At Hart Park & Heritage Junction, Oct 18, 10am to 2pm
Call 661/254-1275 for details

Visit Heritage Junction Historic Park: *Inside William S. Hart Park in Old Town Newhall, Tours Every Saturday & Sunday, 1pm-4pm*



Parr,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

California Teacher of the Year program. Parr and sixteen other teachers of the year selected by Hart District Schools were honored by the Hart Governing Board Sept. 3.

Other individual school nominees included Greg Herrick, Academy of the Canyons; Joanna Johnson, Arroyo Seco Junior High; Jamie Herrington, Bowman High School; Elizabeth Craig, Canyon High School; Jason Wilhelm, Early College High School; Stella Theuer, Golden Oak Adult School; Carolyn Hoffman, Golden Valley High School; Rob Frechette, Hart High School; Jeff Stephan, La Mesa Junior High School; Lee Gately, Rancho Pico Junior High School; Jeanette Kratofil, Rio Norte Junior High School; Frank Koroshec, Saugus High School; Fidel Garcia, Sequoia Learning Charter; Lorraine Fulleman, Sierra Vista Junior High School; John Minkus, Valencia High School; Fayanne Gabel, West Ranch High School.

"These teachers are selected by their peers as outstanding examples of the teaching profession," Assistant Superintendent Rochelle Neal told the school board.

Parr worked at Canyon for four years as an English teacher before transferring to pursue her true passion, working with students for whom English is a second language. She also taught a new Strategic Reading exploratory class last year, aimed at helping students who score at or below Basic on their standardized English tests.

"Christine has been teaching for six years and has taken on many extra responsibilities in her time at Canyon High School and now at Placerita," Neal said. Parr is often called upon to train other staff members in developing literacy.

As intervention coordinator, she has organized, created and recruited teachers for intervention classes which help low-performing students. While teaching English at



CHRISTINE PARR

Canyon High, she also served as yearbook advisor, helping the program move to an all digital publication with full color.

Parr received her bachelor's degree from the University of LaVerne and is in the process of obtaining her master's degree in educational counseling. Canyon High School's principal and department chairs selected her as Teacher of the Month in February 2005.

A junior high school teacher who was patient and kind, while maintaining high academic standards in the classroom, became Parr's role model once she decided that teaching was her goal in life.

"Once I started down this new path, I found true joy in my life and never regretted my decision," she said. "True success comes from helping others find their own joy. I come home each night satisfied that I am able to create a passion for learning within my students, making a difference in their lives each and every day."

She also is dedicated to getting parents of English learners involved in their children's education. She helps facilitate Parents of English Language Learners (PELL) meetings five times a year and has conducted weekly parent information meetings during the five weeks of summer school.

"We are proud to announce that Christine was recently selected as a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year semi-finalist and wish her success in the next level of competition," Neal said. "Christine represents exemplary teaching methods and a passion for student learning."

The Bird Man Of Hart Park.

By **JOHN BOSTON,**
MR. SCV,
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.

Monuments come. Monuments go. History will probably never remember Dick Lindsay.

There used to be this huge flora in front of Hart Park, in that little triangle of county land by Newhall Avenue and Main Street where the wagon wheel/stucco “Welcome to Newhall” sign sits. Prior to that, a giant deodar tree rested there, and in its shade rested a tranquil bird bath.

It’s a most interesting tale, one sneaking up on a century old.

Fred Trueblood was editor of the local newspaper during the mid-20th Century. It was a tranquil time when the valley was dotted by quiet farms and ranches. Gossip and myth took the place of cable TV.

Mr. Lindsay was a dangerous-looking loner who kept to himself. Trueblood, editor of The Signal, called him “as forbidding an individual as you would ever see. He had a heavy, stocky frame and a face that looked as though it had been hacked out of granite. He always looked as though he was ready to bite nails in two. So grim and severe was his aspect that folks were scared of him and gave him a wide berth

when they passed by.”

The hermit stayed in the old Cozy Court on San Fernando Road. What few realized was that this part-time janitor at the Sheriff’s Station had a huge heart for animals. He kept a small monkey (which died from overeating) and a puppy. The puppy grew and was his constant companion. When he died, it broke up Lindsay pretty bad.

An old-timer in the 1930s, he turned his attention to the birds at Hart Park. Lindsay would spend hours feeding and watering the little flying critters.

A beautiful young nurse at the old Newhall hospital, Mrs. Ruth Christian, sort of adopted Lindsay, watching over him, feeding him and finally caring for him long through his final illness.

That fierce-looking Newhall man with a heart for smaller creatures was born during the Civil War. After he met his reward, Ruth used her small savings. With the blessing of William S. Hart, she planted the young deodar tree and installed a bird bath in front of Hart’s mansion with the simple brass plaque:

In Memory
DICK LINDSAY
1863-1940
“He Loved The Birds”

The years went by. The



LEON WORDEN

TRIBUTE TO THE BIRD MAN — In years gone by, a tree and a birdbath paying tribute to Dick Lindsay, who cared for the birds at William S. Hart park in the 1930s, could be found near the present-day entrance to Hart Park. The simple monument was removed years ago, and now the question arises: Can it be restored?

tree got pulled and the simple little birdbath for a rare, kind soul is now yards deep, buried in a landfill. There is no memory for Dick Lindsay.

I spoke before a couple hundred souls in August at one of my favorite events, Silents Under the Stars. That’s the annual silent movie, dinner

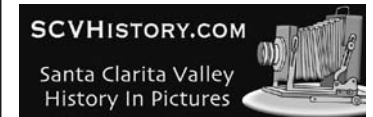
and fundraiser for Friends of Hart Park.

I ask a question for Santa Clarita City Manager Ken Puskamp, the five good city councilfolk and the hard-working staff at William S. Hart Park today.

Is there a place in their hearts and budget to bring back Dick’s small birdbath and

humble brass plaque?

I think Dick Lindsay’s small legacy is the kind of gesture that binds us together as a community and shouts volumes as to who we are.



City Asks: Where Should CDBG Money Go?

The City of Santa Clarita is starting the planning process for the future use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. An important part of this process is to ask residents and other stakeholders their opinion about

the most important needs in their community.

The survey will be open through October 31, 2008, and the results will be analyzed in the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan, a strategic five-year document that

outlines the City’s goals and priorities on how to best use CDBG funds to meet the needs of the low- and moderate-income residents in our community.

To participate in the Community Needs Survey, a printable version is avail-

able on the City’s website at www.santaclarita.com/cityhall/admin/cdbg. For more information or to request a survey by mail, contact Project Technician Terasa Sullivan at 661/255-4368 or by email at tsullivan@santa-clarita.com.

William S. Hart Turns Fifty. (The Park & Museum, That Is.)

**Western Star's List
Of Contributions
Extends Beyond Newhall.**

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

The William S. Hart Park and Museum is turning fifty!

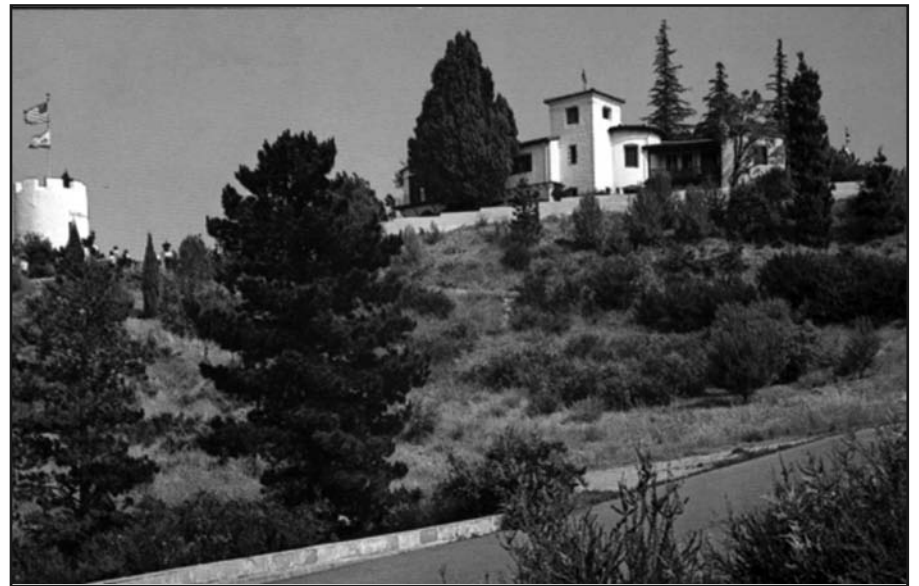
On September 20, 1958, the dedication of the William S. Hart Park and Museum was held in Old Town Newhall. For the past fifty

years, Hart Park and Museum has thrived by providing opportunities to experience and learn about nature and history for local, regional and international visitors.

This past half-century does not only recognize the Park and Museum contributions, but also the selfless contributions of its founder, William S. Hart.


Hart was a famed silent film star whose movie career began in 1914 and ended in 1925 with the release of "Tumbleweeds," a film which is still considered one of the top one-hundred Western movies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.



COURTESY PHOTO

HILL OF THE WINDS – Hart willed his Loma de los Vientos (Hill of the Winds), seen here circa 1960s, to the county. He died in 1946.


 Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation
William S. Hart County Park & Museum
 24151 Main Street, Newhall, CA
 PRESENTS THE 15TH ANNUAL
**AMERICAN INDIAN
POW WOW**
 AND NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, September 27, 2008 10 am - 7 pm
 Sunday, September 28, 2008 10 am - 6 pm

M.C.:	Mike Reifel (San Carlos Apache)
Arena Director:	Victor Chavez (Dine)
Headman Dancer:	EZ Zazieta (Yaqui)
Headwoman Dancer:	Gloria C. Baker (Savalalooria)
Head Gourd Dancer:	Manny Saenz - (Yaqui)
Head Boy Dancer:	Michael Jimenez (Apache)
Head Girl Dancer:	Marissa Saenz (Yaqui)
Eagle Staff:	TBA
Northern Host Drum:	Blue Star
Southern Host Drum:	Hale & Company


Category Prize Contests **"ALL DRUMS & DANCERS WELCOME!"**

Vendor Inquiries Welcome
 For More Information
 Contact: Mary Schultz
 661-255-9295

No Dogs Allowed

<http://www.friendsofhartpark.org/powwow.asp>

No alcohol, no sale of sage, sweet grass or cedar allowed



Updates From The Hart

Fall/Winter Hours

Hart Park Open until 5 pm

Hart Museum Open
Wednesday to Friday, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Native American Pow Wow
September 27-28, 2008
FREE ADMISSION
 Experience Native American culture through music, dance, art, and cuisine.

Please visit www.hartmuseum.org
 for information updates.

**OLD TOWN NEWHALL
ON THE WEB.**

Two Sites To Serve You:

OldTownNewhall.com
MyNewMainStreet.com

Hart, CONT.

FROM PAGE 8.

If you have not seen a Hart film before, cruise by the Hart's Ranch House to see one of Hart's films being shown, or visit the Friends of Hart Park Gift Store to peruse the Hart DVD and VHS inventory. Whether you are an avid Hart fan or you're watching a silent film for the first time, it is definitely an experience to remember.

Hart's reputation continues to this day, not only through his fans' love of his movies, but also through the contributions he made to society.

The next time you are driving around Santa Clarita, take a look around and see how Hart influenced our local valley.

Start at Hart Park and continue down Newhall Avenue until you see William S. Hart High School, which is part of the William S. Hart School District. You can also stroll down Main



HART IN HOLLYWOOD (Left) – Hart's Newhall Mansion wasn't the only home the actor gave to the County of Los Angeles. He also donated his earlier Hollywood home, seen here in the 1920s. Today part of the city of West Hollywood, the house has been used since 1968 as the headquarters of the West Coast branch of the Actors Studio and has been refurbished through the years to include a seventy-seat theater. **HART ON THE TRAIL (Right)** – The character Ice Harding might have been the terror of the community in "The Narrow Trail" (Arctcraft Pictures Corp., 1917), but the real-life actor was a great benefactor to the community he adopted a decade later.



Street to see the original movie theater (aka the American Legion Hall) for which Hart donated funds. If you drive down Valencia Boulevard, you will see the William S. Hart Baseball signs. Perhaps your own child is or was a member of the Bill Hart District Boy Scouts of America.

William S. Hart Park and Museum may represent "Two

Gun" Bill himself, but you can see the traces he left behind throughout the city. We invite you to come learn more about this Western legend at the William S. Hart Park and Museum. The list of contributions Hart made during his lifetime goes on and on.

In addition to the William S. Hart Park and Museum located in

Old Town Newhall, Hart also donated his Hollywood home to Los Angeles County. The home is now the West Coast branch of the Actors Studio, and the surrounding property is a dog park. The dog park is very fitting, since Hart loved his dogs. Also, check out the Dogs' Graveyard in Newhall's Hart Park!

Hart donated funds to the

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Los Angeles. He joined the SPCA in April 1926 and was featured in 1946 on the cover and in an article of the organization's magazine, *Humane Sentinel*. Next time you visit the Hart Museum, be sure to ask about the plaque in the Dogs' Bedroom naming Hart an honorary president.

Are you interested in learning more about animals and pet care? Check out Hart Park's Bow Wows and Meows Pet Adoption and Animal Fair on October 18.

Hart was a leader in creating an authentic portrayal of the American West. Just as Russell and Remington had done in their artwork, Hart's motivation in making movies was to create a more authentic view of the "Wild West." Hart's Western portrayal was used as a model for future actors including Clint Eastwood.

Visit the Hart Museum to see William S. Hart's collection of Western artwork, Native American artifacts, film memorabilia, and personal effects.

Shop For Unique Items At Hart Park Gift Store.

By BECKI BASHAM,
CO-MANAGER,
HART PARK GIFT STORE.

The Friends of Hart Park Gift Store was established in 1986 in one of the original buildings on the Hart Ranch. We moved to a new and larger "wood cabin" modular in 2007.

The store is located in the parking lot between the old Ranch House and the duck pond at the park. Staffed by Friends of Hart Park volunteers, the store is generally open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from the Friends of Hart Park Gift Store go directly back into the park in a variety of ways – animal care, repairs, restoration of artifacts,

programs for the community, and more.

The Gift Store is but one of several ways that The Friends raise money for the park; we also sponsor programs such as Silents Under the Stars, the annual Pow-Wow, Mary Ellen's Tea Party, and events during the city's annual Cowboy Festival.

When it first opened, the Gift Store primarily sold animal food and trinkets and some Bill Hart souvenir items. The new and updated Gift Store currently has gone "up-scale" and includes the following:

- Silent films by William S. Hart on DVD;
- A great selection of "B" Westerns featuring local cowboy actors Hoot Gibson, Tom Mix,

Gene Autry and Harry Carey. In addition, we stock other films starring Tim McCoy, Buck Jones, Roy Rogers, Will Rogers and others, also on DVD;

- Western music on CD;
- Books on the West and Western topics, including books written by Hart;
- House wares with a Western theme;
- Framed pictures, signs and sculptures with Western themes;
- Southwestern and Western-style jewelry, including items from Montana silversmiths, Cabana, and Libertad, as well as American Indian-made jewelry from New Mexico and authentic pueblo pottery;
- Western purses and some Western-wear clothing items;
- Rocks, minerals, and Western



FRIENDS OF WM. S. HART PARK

THE GIFT SHOP AT WILLIAM S. HART PARK OFFERS A VARIETY OF UNIQUE SOUVENIRS AND MEMORABILIA.

toys for the children;
• Souvenir buttons, T-shirts, postcards, etc.

Please come by and visit us

and see first-hand what a nice shopping experience is available at the Friends of Hart Park Gift Store.

Developing All-Stars On And Off The Field.

By **EFREN GALINDO,**
COMMUNITY CENTER
COORDINATOR,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

The City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Community Center has provided positive educational and recreational opportunities for high risk youth since 1994.

The Center was located in a converted warehouse on San Fernando Road near 9th Street from 1994 until 2006, when the new facility opened at its current location at 22421 Market Street in Newhall.

Thanks to increased capacity and features of the new facility, the center's staff members have added many new programs, but quite a few of the original programs were carried over from the old site to the new.

One was the extremely popular soccer program headed up by Community Center staff member Andres Trejo. From its humble beginning in 2001 with one team of twelve youngsters, the program now consists of two teams serving more than thirty youths each season.

These two Community Center teams have consistently dominated the Southern California Coast Soccer League and have competed in statewide tournaments with ample success in the past several years.

All in all, more than two hundred young people have gone through the program in the last seven years.

For six of those seven years, Andres Trejo has been the head coach, teaching and mentoring youth in both soccer and life skills as the leader of the program. He seeks to develop each team member into the best soccer player and best human being they can be by encouraging hard work, academic success, and personal responsibility. As a result, Trejo has developed

some of the finest soccer players and young men in the city of Santa Clarita.

He sums it up this way: "I'd rather spend my time and money helping these kids on the soccer field than to have to spend it removing graffiti from my walls if they were on the streets."

Seven of the thirteen players on the Boys Under 16 team are currently playing at the varsity or junior varsity level at local high schools. These teen soccer stars have been developing their skills in the Community Center's program since they were ten years old.

When Andres isn't coaching, you will find him at the business he owns and manages, the Downtown Bakery at 24400 Walnut Street in Newhall.

One of the program's shining stars is Andrew Trejo, who has earned a prestigious spot in the United States' Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program. This program was formed in 1977 to identify potential players for the United States National Team.

At the age of eleven, Andrew began to learn the fundamental skills of the game and cultivate his athletic forte in the Community Center's soccer program.

Even though Andrew is now one of the elite soccer players in the country, he has not forgotten his humble beginnings. When he is not training out of state, Andrew finds time to visit and train with his old teammates at the Community Center. He offers encouraging words of advice to all the players and is an excellent role model for the community.

"I feel that the soccer program at the Center is like my family," Andrew said during a recent visit. "I learned to play soccer with all these guys, and that makes me proud."

Andrew is the eldest son of coach Andres Trejo and an obvious inspiration to other young Commu-



LEON WORDEN



nity Center players.

Another component of the program's success is the special, supportive bond that exists with the local community.

Carlos Marroquin, owner of Planet Soccer at 24331 Main Street is extremely supportive of the soccer program. In 2008 alone, Carlos donated more than five thousand dollars' worth of essential soccer equipment to the program. Thanks to his generosity, youth have essen-

THE COMMUNITY CENTER'S YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM, LED BY COACH ANDRES TREJO (LEFT), PROVIDES A VALUABLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL YOUTHS.

tial soccer gear that would otherwise be unaffordable to them.

Another key community partnership has been with the Milan USA Soccer Academy, located in the city of Santa Clarita. The academy is directly affiliated with the prestigious AC Milan Soccer Club in Italy.

Milan USA sponsors the Community Center's Boys Under 16 team, which has fifteen active players. This affiliation grants teams the ability to compete in the Coast Soccer league at no cost. The academy also pays for team league dues, player membership fees, and provides uniforms at a reduced fee.

This past summer, academy coaching staff volunteered their valuable time and expertise to provide an intensive soccer clinic for

children at the Newhall Community Center. More than forty boys and girls ages six to twelve had the opportunity to learn fundamental soccer skills from Cristiano Scappalo and David Vaudreuil, former professional soccer players who are now affiliated with the Milan USA Academy.

The city of Santa Clarita is committed to programs such as the Community Center's soccer program, which provide accessible and affordable opportunities for high-risk youth.

This support, combined with community partnerships and dedicated staff, provides a solid foundation for continued development of All-Star soccer players and community members.

Steinbeck's "Of Mice And Men" On Stage At The REP.

News From The
Repertory East Playhouse.

The Repertory East Playhouse will continue its Main Stage Series with John Steinbeck's classic "Of Mice and Men." Funded through a Community Services grant from the city of Santa Clarita, "Of Mice and Men" is the first production in an ongoing program that will bring literary classics to the boards at the Repertory East Playhouse.

"This is a very exciting time for the REP," said board President Bill Quinn. "The funding from the Community Services grant has only solidified the dedication that the City of Santa Clarita has for the arts and for the future of the theatre district in Old Town Newhall."

"Of Mice and Men" opens on Friday, September 19, with an Opening Night Gala at 7 p.m. and curtain at 8 p.m. The Opening

REP
ERTORY
EAST
PLAYHOUSE



TYLER BROOKS (LEFT) AND MICHAEL BRUCE
STARIN "OF MICE AND MEN"

Night Gala is sponsored by Travel Center Santa Clarita with wine and food sponsored by Loose Goose Wine Festival and RSVP Catering.

"Of Mice and Men" will run through October 18. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17/\$15. Advanced reservations are highly recommended. For tickets, purchase online at www.repeast-playhouse.org or call 661-288-0000. The REP is located at 24266 Main Street Newhall, CA 91321.

The REP will host two post show discussions on Sunday September 21 and September 28 immediately following the show. Join the cast and crew for an intimate discussion about the process of creating

live theatre.

Artistic Director Ovington Michael Owston has assembled a stellar cast consisting of Santa Clarita favorites Ed Hill, Michael Levine, Jarod Scott, Michael Collins, Marlowe Weisman, and Tippy Washington. Leading the cast in the iconic roles of George and Lennie are REP newcomers Tyler Brooks and Michael Bruce. Rounding out the cast are Kerry Bishop and Daniel Sykes, also new to the REP.

The story: Two drifters, George and Lennie, with delusions of living off the "fat of the land," have arrived at a ranch to work for enough money to buy their own place. Lennie is a man-child, a boy in the body of a dangerously powerful man. It is Lennie's obsessions with things soft and cuddly that make George cautious about whom the gentle giant, with his brute strength, associates with. His promise to allow Lennie to "tend to the rabbits" on their future land keeps Lennie calm, amid distractions, as the overgrown child needs constant reassurance. But when a ranch boss' promiscuous wife is found dead in the barn with a broken neck, it is obvious that Lennie killed her, albeit accidentally. George, worried about his own safety, knows where Lennie has gone to hide, and meets him there. Realizing they can't run away anymore, George is faced with a moral question: how should he deal with Lennie before the ranchers find him?

CTG Roundup.

Intrigue, Excitement, Adventure.

A Diabolical Plot Is Afoot: Will Bond Break A Leg?

By CAROL ROCK,
NOT-SO-UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE, CANYON THEATRE GUILD.

"We have received a communiqué that reconnaissance has uncovered a diabolical plot to take over the world," Randy Aronson, president of the board of the Canyon Theatre Guild, said of the Guild's upcoming Gala fundraiser.

"Our operatives in Old Town Newhall have traced the source of this plan to one man who is working as a double agent at the Canyon Theatre Guild. Once a trusted member of Our Majesty's Secret Service, his greed and lust for power have overtaken him, and he is now working for SEPTRE."

The plan, as we know it, is to infiltrate this organization's Gala fundraiser on September 26, 2008. He will arrive between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. and mingle with the other guests at the Martini bar and Silent Auction tables.

At approximately 7 p.m. he will enter the Octopussy Lounge where dinner will be served. His plan is to move from this area to the casino tables at random intervals, to throw off anyone who may have spotted him.

It is a brilliant cover for him, for we have been told that the other guests have been instructed to dress as characters from the James Bond movies. It will be difficult to spot this villain. Our job is to have agents scattered throughout the casino tables, at random tables in the dining room, and around the Martini bar area.

He will be posing as one of the many supporters of the local theatre company. You must admit it is a brilliant cover. Your mission is to pose as a high roller and infiltrate the GALA and stop the madman from taking over the world.

Advise headquarters as soon as possible as to which cover you will want to use. Chose from the following:

* Casino Royale Experience: Your table for ten will be in the front of the lounge, affording you a clear shot at the double agent; you will have a personal server at your table, a hosted bar, and \$10,000 in gaming chips. Your investment: \$2,000.

* Goldfinger Experience: Your table for ten will be in the second tier and will offer a good shot at the double agent; you will have waiter service, wine, and \$5,000 in gaming chips. Your investment: \$1,750.

* Thunderball Experience: These tables for ten will be behind the first two groups, but will still offer a fairly good shot at the double agent; you will have waiter service, wine, and \$2,000 in gaming chips. Your investment: \$1,500

* George Larrabee Experience: These tables of ten will have individual guests who may, or may not, be on the same "side." Each \$100 guest will receive \$100 in gaming chips.

There will be distractions in the form of beautiful women, live and silent auctions, and, of course, casino games. If you feel you are up to the challenge and would like to be a part of foiling this plot against the world, call headquarters now to be counted: (661) 799-2702. Remember, this information is for your eyes only. The spy could be anyone!

Good Luck and God Save the Queen!

Musical Mayhem And Fun For All.

The Fall Family Season offering at the Canyon Theatre Guild is a fun-filled show, "Musical! The Bard is Back!"

As any theater aficionado knows, it is considered bad luck to speak the name of Shakespeare's "Scottish Play" while inside a theater. Those who are fool enough to do so are cursed in their production.

Well, when the students of a small high school decide to present a musical version of "Romeo and Juliet," the director chosen for them by the school's principal is convinced that the curse that struck her high school production of "Macbeth" still lingers.

Sure enough, everything goes wrong. The set for the balcony scene collapses, Juliet breaks her leg, her replacement develops laryngitis, and the semi-deaf costumer arrives with cowboy outfits because she thought the show

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.

Hollywood at Hart:

Wonder Horses that Built Hollywood

What: America's first movie stars were horses, as author Deanne Stillman writes about in her acclaimed new book "Mustang: The Saga of the Wild Horse in the American West." Join us for her talk about Hollywood horses, including Fritz, the beloved and celebrated partner of William S. Hart. The talk and book signing will be held in the William S. Hart Park's Hart Hall.

This FREE event will begin at 4 p.m. in William S. Hart Park's Hart Hall.

Reservations are preferred and can be made by calling the Hart Museum at 661-254-4584.

When: Saturday, November 1st, 4 p.m.

Where: William S. Hart Park's Hart Hall
24151 Newhall Avenue
Newhall, CA 91321

Contact: For more information, please contact the William S. Hart Museum at (661) 254-4584.

Students Return To Upgraded Classrooms.

More Than A Facelift For SCV's Oldest Secondary Schools.

By **PATTI RASMUSSEN**,
GAZETTE CHIEF
CORRESPONDENT.

The valley's oldest high school and her sister junior high have been receiving a much needed face-lift over the summer. Using funds from the Measure V bond and developer fees, the William S. Hart Union School District has upgraded classrooms, removed portables and added plenty of restrooms at Hart High and Placerita Junior High.

"Our goal is to return Hart High to the flagship school of the district," said Rob Gapper, chief operations officer of the Hart District. Staff members at both school sites gave input on the changes, he said, and all agreed that Hart and Placerita should maintain their heritage and their look with brick buildings and plenty of mature trees.

Modernizing old buildings



PATTI RASMUSSEN

THE BAND ROOM AT PLACERITA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IS GETTING A MUCH-NEEDED FACELIFT.

comes with challenges, however. As construction crews dug into the more than fifty-year-old schools, they found plenty of unforeseen conditions and obstacles including a nice surprise at Placerita: a brand new set of flags for a drill team.

Paul Rivas, director of facilities, oversees all the modernization for the school district. After a successful remodeling of Canyon High School, Rivas said each project becomes a little easier, but "sometimes things are not where they are suppose to be," he said.

While Hart and Placerita have gone through various stages of modernization throughout the years, this newest project adds space to the classrooms, updates fire alarm systems and brings the campuses up to state compliance.

Rivas also said the schools will be "going green" with the materials being put back into the rooms such as new vinyl flooring and recycling of old materials as much as possible.

The Hart High project comes at a cost of \$39 million over a two-year period. A big change came a

few years ago with the removal of several portables placed in the front circular drive after the 1994 earthquake.

This year, just about every classroom space has been expanded and modernized, including a new band room and choral room. The biggest investment has been the addition of restrooms, which will be added into the discarded locker bays.

A new science building has gone out to bid, Rivas said. It is to include seven rooms, prep space and storage. The next phase, if a new bond is passed, will include modernization of the school cafeteria and library.

Modernization continues through the school year, but Hart Principal Collyn Nielson said the students were prepared for the construction.

"We spoke with the kids about the opening of the school year and they pretty much understood this is how it's going to be for most of the year."

While construction crews milled about, students seemed to move between classes and gather in

the quad as usual.

Changes at Placerita Junior High include a new look for the front of the school with added security in mind. The main entrance will be redesigned to allow parents and guests to sign into the school or drop off items without ever entering the campus.

The band room will be expanded with secure instrument storage and the home economics room is getting a major overhaul. The art room and shops are also being upgraded and expanded.

Construction continues during the school year, and Placerita Principal Mike Kuhlman has said the students don't seem to mind the distraction.

"They lost a few basketball hoops and some handball courts, but they are doing well," he said.

Gapper, a former principal at Placerita, is also looking forward the next stage of modernization that will hopefully include a standardized, two-story building that can be used at all school sites.

"My goal is never to have another portable on our campuses," he said.

The Sensations Of Coming Home To Mentryville.

By **DARRYL MANZER**,
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

Every time I return to Pico Canyon and Mentryville, the first thing I sense is what I smell.

The smell of the canyon from the pepper and eucalyptus trees after a rain – what a wonderful memory. Mix that with the smells of the sage and other plants and you have a "nose feast." Gosh I love that!

"Yes, every day after classes, I had the chore of taking two buckets on a yoke, filling them with water and watering the trees that had been planted here."

The old gentleman telling this tale was sitting at the kitchen table of what is now called "The Big House" in Mentryville. The

year was 1961 or thereabout. He had lived in Mentryville, he said, between 1890 and 1898 when his father was a worker in the oil fields there. He had been a student at Felton School, the little one-room schoolhouse that still stands in the



Darryl Manzer.

old town.

Some of what we thought we knew about Mentryville just does not seem to agree with the statements of this old gentleman. But to those of us who lived in and wandered about Mentryville and Pico Canyon, the statements ring true.

Because of disease and old age, the trees he watered are slowly disappearing. Some were cut down over the years, usually because they had been killed by fire.

I cut down a few of those same trees myself – huge eucalyptus trees that towered far above the narrow, two-lane road in the

canyon killed in the fire of 1962. I'm sure a few of the pepper trees were also cut or lost then, too.

Now, eucalyptus and pepper trees are not native to Pico Canyon or even California. They were planted to provide shade in a nearly treeless environment.

Sure, there were and are some native trees in Mentryville, but none that were fast-growing and more importantly, none near the homes that were being built in the canyon in the 1870s and '80s.

Many of the oil field workers were from Pennsylvania. They had followed Mr. Mentry to California and, as was popular at the time,

they brought some plants with them. (This was long before the inspection stations for agriculture were at the California border.)

It seems that pepper and eucalyptus trees were popular. And they planted them – next to every house, along the road, near the school and community hall, and far up the canyon around the machine shop that they called "The Works."

So why did they pick two types of trees known to be highly flammable? Two kinds of trees that can't be used for lumber, or much of anything else, other than shade?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14.

Letters, CONT.

FROM PAGE 2.

to the city's Community Center at the middle of Old Town Newhall.

Anyone who has used the current Newhall branch library knows that, while doing the best with what they have, the facility is woefully undersized and antiquated. Libraries are resources that promote and enhance literacy, and they communicate our community's values. It's time for an expansion and enhancement of the library that serves this part of town not only as a resource but as a statement of the community's priorities.

One of the things I asked at the first meeting of the Library Committee was whether funds are available to ensure the project's construction. I was assured that funds were available and the city was committed.

The community advisory group has provided its input. The sooner this project is realized, the sooner the community will benefit.

Let's move!

DR. MARC WINGER,
Superintendent,
Newhall School District.

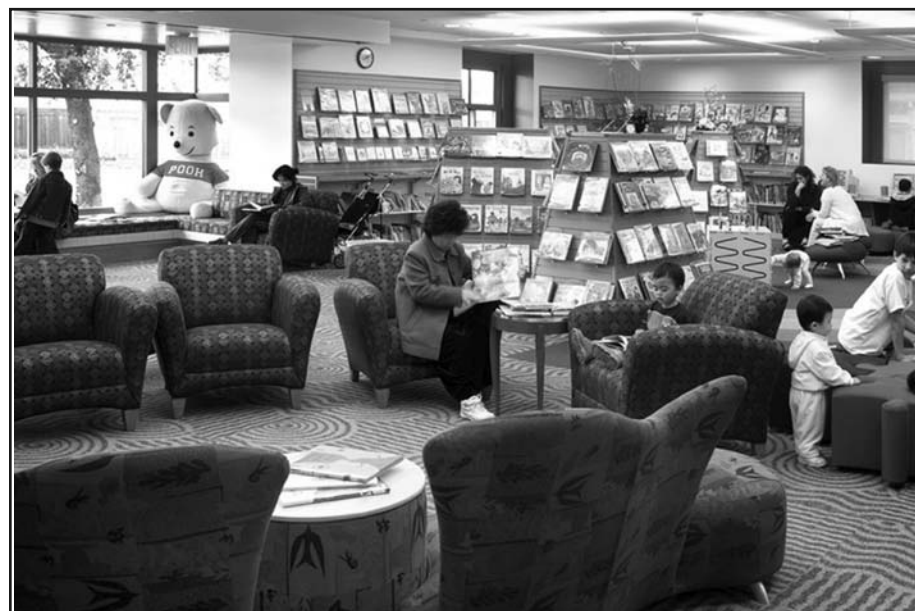
Let's Get This Library Designed And Built.

Dear Editor,

As a member of the City of Santa Clarita's Newhall Library Committee, I concur with Dr. Marc Winger, fellow Newhall resident and Superintendent of the Newhall School District. The committee upon which we served was an excellent cross-section of Newhall community representatives and city and county employees. I feel the surveys that were undertaken of our local Newhall community showed a dire need to update our "mini-library" that has long been judged to be limited at best in its ability to serve our community.

I can remember when my sons, who are now in their mid-twenties, were frustrated by the limited volumes available at the Newhall Library when they wanted to complete a school project or read another book by a favorite author. Even ten or fifteen years ago we had to eventually trek over to the Valencia library in order to have adequate library resources for our own "Newhall kids."

As a school teacher for twenty-one years and a school principal for fifteen years in the Saugus Union School District, I have never been able to recommend to a parent that they try to find resources to support



**A MODERN LIBRARY CAN BE A VIBRANT GATHERING PLACE
THAT PROMOTES LITERACY, SCHOOL LEADERS SAY.**

their child's school projects or reading interests at the current Newhall Library because I knew that it had, and has, very limited resources due to its very confined quarters. This is very sad and frustrating for those of us who value and point with pride at the great overall support our public schools receive in our community.

The idea that the excellent work of the members of the Newhall Library Committee may be all for naught leaves me frustrated and sad for the residents of Newhall who will

still not have a library comparable to the library that the residents of Canyon Country and Valencia were more expansive branch libraries now exist.

It is my sincere hope that the process of getting this library designed and built can get back on track.

MYRON H. GROCH,
Newhall Resident and
Principal, Highlands School,
Saugus Union School District.

Editorial, CONT.

FROM PAGE 2.

protects the properties that are for-
sure historic (General Plan) and
those that are likely to be historic
(Specific Plan).

The ordinance is a temporary
stopgap. It expires in three years,
during which time this "further in-
vestigation" is supposed to be done.

The new ordinance is an im-
portant step that should save our
city's most precious historic re-
sources from the bulldozer. But it is
only a first step.

Nobody has ever inventoried all
of the properties in Santa Clarita to
assess their historical importance.
It's difficult to develop policies to

protect buildings if you don't know
what's out there. Take a close look
the next time you drive up one of our
local canyon roads and you'll see
there are all sorts of things with "po-
tentially historic" value - things you
may have never noticed.

That is why the city has identi-
fied the need for a second phase of
historic preservation. Phase Two
calls for a survey of properties in
Santa Clarita and the development of
policies to protect the ones worth
saving.

If there is something on the
Downtown Newhall Specific Plan list
that doesn't belong there, it can
come off. Conversely, if there's
something of historic value in the city
that hasn't been identified, hopefully
it can be preserved.

It will be a complicated
process, and done right, it will take
time.

Properties must be surveyed
citywide and coalesced into a report
so we know what exists. Then the city
will need to hold public meetings to
learn what the community thinks is
important to save.

Should something be saved if
it's a hundred years old? Is that
enough of a criterion? Or must Bill
Hart have slept there? The commu-
nity must decide.

Then the policymakers will
need to meet with affected property
owners. Then they will have to filter
all of that information and synthesize
their decisions into a set of codes that
will require an environmental impact
report, with lots more time for the
public to comment.

No, three years isn't too long if
we're going to end up with an iron-
clad ordinance that protects every-
thing that is important to preserve
and lets the rest go.

Hopefully it can be done
quicker, but it seems better to do it
right than to do it fast. What needed
to be done fast, the City Council did
in August.

Last time, we discussed a brew-
ing rivalry among factions that had
set their sights on a finite amount of
redevelopment money.

Some folks want to build a li-
brary. Some want to fix up Main
Street. Some want to build parking
structures. There isn't enough rede-
velopment money to do it all.

It looks like the library folks
and the "streetscape" folks are the
winners.

The city is committed to build-
ing a landmark library in Newhall at
the head of Main Street and has hired
consultants to meet with the commu-
nity and design it (see story, Page 1).
The library is probably two or three

years away, but it will happen.

Meantime, at least some of
the streetscape will happen
sooner. Come November or De-
cember, the city will put the initial
streetscape project to bid. Con-
struction should start right after
the first of the year.

Both sides of the block be-
tween 6th Street and Market (7th)
will be redesigned, and there is a
chance of doing a second block, too,
from Market to 8th.

Many downtown merchants
want all of the streetscape installed at
once, but two blocks would be good
start, especially considering Main
Street is only five blocks long.

Two parking structures are on
the drawing board, but they are part
of future private commercial devel-
opment projects that have not yet
been submitted to the city for formal
consideration.

Manzer, CONT.

FROM PAGE 12.

Pepper trees are too soft for good firewood, and eucalyptus does make good firewood if you cut and split it green. Trying to split eucalyptus into firewood after it has dried is not recommended – I’ve tried. They didn’t need firewood since they had gas lights, gas stoves and gas heaters. The natural gas from the wells was free. Why spend time making firewood?

No, they planted the trees, those old pepper and eucalyptus trees, for shade and – get this – smell. The old pioneer oil field workers liked to smell something nice once in a while.

Let’s face it, folks, he smell must have awful! Horses, mules, cows, chickens, pigs, weekly baths (even in the heat of Southern California), hot and heavy clothes, no deodorants, lye soaps ... those smells must have been, like we say here in Virginia, “intense.”

So they planted the pepper and eucalyptus trees because they smelled good. They placed them near homes and work areas, and the bakery, school, and community hall because – they smelled good.

In most cases, if we want to know where a home was located, we look for those kinds of trees.

So before age and disease takes them all, we have to remember what they were and still are, more than one hundred twenty years later: markers of places where people lived, loved, worked and played.

Those oil field workers were not the first to live in Pico Canyon. No proof has been found, but with a ready source of water, nut-producing native trees and plentiful wild game, the early residents of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Tataviam people, must have been there before – but they left nothing to show it, that we’ve found ... yet.

Looking at old pictures of Pico Canyon and Mentryville, we

can see the trees when they were newly planted. We can see the houses in the canyon as they were. We can see the trees, too.

In those pictures are a few scenes that make the story of the old gentleman ring true. The first is a picture of Mr. Mentry sitting in a chair on the porch of what can only be the Big House, in 1893. So much for the “recorded history” stating it was built in 1898.

The next two pictures are of the first oil well, CSO No. 4. One picture from 1877 shows only sagebrush around the well. The one taken in the 1880s clearly shows eucalyptus trees. So much for the theory that the trees were planted much later. Sorry about that, for those of you who thought otherwise.

A few weeks ago I stopped by the old town and a film crew was creating a scene in Kosovo. At least, that is what the sign said on the set.

Maybe you should stop by, too. See those pesky trees before they die – those trees that gave Mentryville a unique and refreshing smell after every rain, that “nose feast” of memories that are slowly slipping away. One by one, they have to be cut for the safety of the very buildings they were meant to shade.

I hope a few eucalyptus and pepper trees are planted to replace those that have died – because I think everyone should have a nose feast in Pico Canyon after a rain-storm on a Spring day.

I’m coming back in October for the fortieth reunion celebration of the Hart High Class of 1968. I’ve always said that if time permitted, I’d be happy to give a tour of the canyon and town. How about meeting me in the Mentryville parking lot on October 16 at 10 a.m.? Drop a line via e-mail if you’d like to be a part of that tour. The e-address is Darryl@old-townnewhall.com.

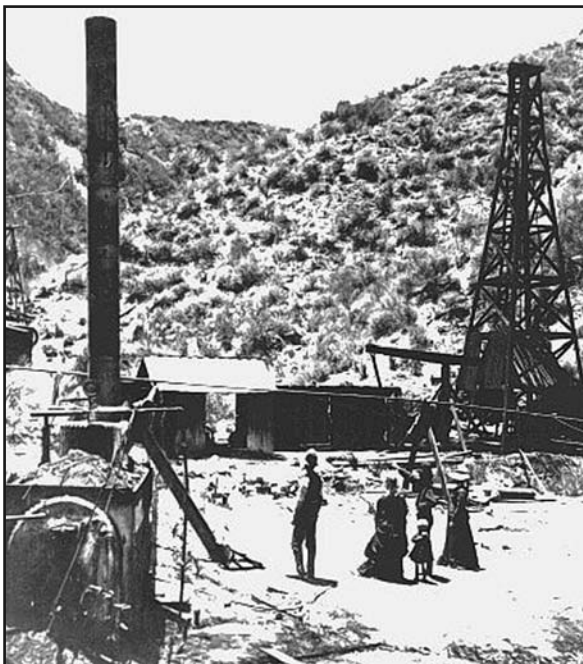
Darryl Manzer grew up in Mentryville in the 1960s. Today he lives in Virginia.



TOP: PICO NO. 4 IN 1883, SURROUNDED BY NEWLY PLANTED EUCALYPTUS.



MIDDLE LEFT: OIL DRILLER AND TOWN NAMESAKE ALEX MENTRY IN 1893.



BOTTOM: PICO NO. 4, THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL OIL WELL WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN 1877.



**EXPLORE HISTORIC
MENTRYVILLE.**

*Birthplace Of The California
Oil Industry ~ Right Here
In The Santa Clarita Valley.*

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Library, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

process of designing such a facility, the main purpose of the meeting was to get real input from members of the community dedicated enough to put in the time and participate in the success of the project.

Participants were given a board outlining the project site and identifying the nearby roadways. They were also given a set of specifically sized pieces of colored paper meant to represent the approximate areas necessary for the building, parking lots, plazas and so forth, so that each group could size, cut, and paste the components onto the site as they felt would be the best layout for the building. Each group then presented the ideas behind the sites they designed.

Public participation is often a tough balancing act for city officials and their consultants. Generally there are competing points of view for any topic that a group has been assembled to discuss. In the case of the new Newhall Library, all of the participants were excited about the prospect



LEON WORDEN

MEMBERS OF THE SANTA CLARITA ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS FOR THE LAYOUT OF THE FUTURE NEWHALL LIBRARY.

of building a new library and making it an icon that will draw patrons to it and Old Town Newhall as improvements continue to grow.

The final exercise consisted of Rick showing slides of different aspects of various buildings designed by his firm. Meeting participants were asked to jot down their impressions of each image, positive and negative, so that he could get an indication if there was a strong trend in any particular direction.

The themes and styles iden-

tified by the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan were strongly incorporated into the presentation and will continue throughout the design process.

Several of the groups expressed a desire to see a coffee shop or even a theater constructed adjacent to the library, or at least on the same block. This point of view was shared specifically in the Specific Plan and will undoubtedly be incorporated in some manner. However, as far as this specific library design process is considered, additional

commercial uses will be accommodated on the site not be considered part of the core project.

As you may know from reading *The Gazette*, over the last two years, city staffers have been working on the design for the Old Town Newhall streetscape.

The current budget calls for the block of Main Street between Market and 6th streets to be constructed first, with future phases to follow.

City staff was recently officially directed to bid the project with an alternative that would include the block between Market and 8th streets, as well. Staff was directed to do this in consideration of the fact that recent projects advertised through the public bidding process have resulted in higher levels of competition, and thus less expensive costs.

While this may not be the case for the type of work considered here, should the bids come in lower than expected, there is a chance that the City Council may authorize a larger first phase.

In other Main Street news, city staff recently received the first draft of a study for the creation of a roundabout at the intersection

of Newhall Avenue and Main Street at 5th Street.

If constructed, the roundabout would eliminate the need for a traffic signal at the intersection and would allow for nearly free-flowing traffic during the morning and evening peak times.

The improvement would be a "true" roundabout in that drivers would not be able to cut through or ignore the proper functioning of the facility as many do on those existing in parking lots of several private shopping centers in town.

The roundabout reduces maintenance and electricity costs while also minimizing the "conflicts" associated with signalized or uncontrolled perpendicular intersections.

City staff will continue to work together among departments and with consultants to move these important projects forward.

Budgeting is in place to pay for them and the mechanisms necessary to get them moving, so it's just a matter of time before they begin sprouting up in earnest, making Main Street more and more desirable for businesses and patrons alike.

Plan, CONT.

FROM PAGE 3.

* Approximately seven hundred thousand square feet of commercial industrial space, with much of it to front Railroad Avenue and with a neighborhood commercial center at the location of 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 Lyons Avenue at-grade 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 13th Street vehicular entrance in the Placerita Canyon community.

All of the above is still subject to further planning, evaluation and change, as staff is 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.

Obtaining multiple agency approval – most notably the Public Utilities Commission – for an at-grade rail crossing of the potential Lyons Avenue extension east into

the project boundary could be exceptionally difficult. As a result, the city will be focusing on the issue of extending Lyons Avenue at-grade over the railroad tracks into Placerita Canyon.

The city's desire for this extension is to accommodate regional and local transportation needs and to provide economic stimulus to the city's redevelopment and Old Town Newhall areas.

It is proposed that this extension would be a relocation of an at-grade crossing, as the 13th Street at-grade crossing at Railroad Avenue would be abandoned. The land use for this specific plan area is subject to the circulation patterns that are ultimately approved.

The next steps for this project will include completing the environmental review process for the

proposed Lyons Avenue extension. A public scoping meeting was conducted in April 2008. A Draft Environmental Impact Report is anticipated to be presented to the public in fall 2008.

Other work efforts involve 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 following certification of the EIR.

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 compli-

mentary uses, preserve environmentally sensitive areas, and provide a mechanism to construct needed public improvements.

Following the resolution of the Lyons Avenue rail crossing issue, city 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 multiple study sessions and public hearings before the city's Planning Commission and City Council.

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

Festival,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

Chris Brake, Henry Darnell, Cynthia Kostylo, and the title sponsor artist, Randall Williams.

The Pop Art Block, sponsored by Saturn of Santa Clarita, encompasses many media and techniques such as graphic design, poster art, car art and bicycle art. It also includes contemporary artworks such as sculpture, installations and traditional paintings. Visitors will have the chance to learn the history of the art form directly from artists at the festival and ask questions about their artwork.

We are sure you will enjoy this year's festival, especially with the musical entertainment lineup at various locations throughout the weekend. As you are strolling along Main Street, you will hear a solo pianist by Steve Gail, acoustic rock by Clare Diane and the Riff-makers, Western swing by Mike Hurwitz, and a vocal quartet by Men of Harmony. Around every turn will be various performers, such as a drum trio by Canundrum, strolling magicians and balloon performers.

The Community Block will present international dance performances from cultures representing Irish, West African, Polynesian and Hispanic. The Community Stage will also feature community performances from Golden Valley High School's Jazz Band and Drum Line, Hart High

School Show Choir, Dance 84, and Elite Dance Studio.

For the first time, the entire community has the opportunity to assist a professional street painter, Mark Wagner, with a fifty-by-fifty-foot street painting square. This interactive art activity will surely bring art and community together.

Pat's Art Zone is named after Pat Craig, an artist and advocate for art in all of its many forms. Pat believed that children should be given the opportunity to express themselves through the arts without restrictions, that they should be encouraged to color outside the lines. She was a founding member of the Arts Alliance, a representative for the Santa Clarita Artists' Association, and was a visual artist who could make anything into a piece of art. Her work on behalf of local artists and her desire to see Santa Clarita become a place that embraced the arts will always be remembered by those who knew her.

Come out to Pat's Art Zone to fashion your own Crazy Hat, watch short films compliments of SCV Film Festival, and try your hand at a temporary pastel art masterpiece.

The Art on Canvas Gallery will display original pieces of artwork from local students and professional artists in Santa Clarita. This year's theme focuses on Santa Clarita, where the good life takes you. So come check out the amazing entries and vote on your favorite "Peo-



SCOTT GROLLER



ple's Choice" artwork.

Old Town Newhall has become the focal point for arts and entertainment in the Santa Clarita Valley with two live theaters, the Canyon Theatre Guild and the

Repertory East Playhouse. While enjoying all the festivities the Street Art Festival has to offer, guests can also visit Old Town Newhall's local shops and boutiques. Families can choose from more than fifteen restaurants and small diners that

CUSTOMERS STROLL MAIN STREET ADMIRING AND PURCHASING FROM THE MANY FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS VENDORS.

offer delicious food and beverages on and around Main Street.

A colorful fall season awaits you and your family at the annual Santa Clarita Street Art Festival in Old Town Newhall. On Saturday, festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free parking is available at the Community Center and William S. Hart Park. For more information, please contact the City's Arts and Events Office at 661/286-4018 or visit www.streetartfest.com on the Internet.

CTG,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 11.

was called "Rodeo and Lariat."

This fun-filled romp is under the direction of Leslie Berra, and the cast includes Cristie Norman as Peggy Donahue; the harried, hapless director of the production, Jim Robinson (who is also co-designing the set) as Principal Sanders; and Marla Khayat as the "older-than-dirt" costumer.

Rounding out the cast are Marina Moore, Julie Brannon, Clare Tompkins-Cook, Paige Aronson, John

Steele, Joshua DiPaola, Joshua David, Bradi Mowry, Mike Keane, Megan Tripp, Kaylee Bodtke-Stout, J.T. Friedman, Kirsten Rast, Lawrence Patchin, Natalie Fortman, Jenna Lanoil, Brittany Hartmire, Katie Fortman, Ross Mayer, Cassie Denault, Ashley Pfenning, Zoie Pulkka, Chloe Johnson, Taylor Kozlowski, Ashley Rasch, Kelsey Rasch, Cassie Schmitt and Chad Spellman.

The production team includes Flo Loring, producer and costume designer; Tim Christianson, assistant director and co-lighting designer; John Morris, vocal director; Rebecca Coombs, Matthew Lawrence and Kamber Moen, choreographers; Jeff Hyde,

co-set designer; and Sam Hyde, co-lighting designer.

"Musical! The Bard is Back!" opens with a 1 p.m. matinee Saturday, October 4, and will run through November 1, with matinees every Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday evening performances at 6:30 p.m. October 5, 12, and 19. There will be one Sunday matinee at 1 p.m. October 26.

Ticket prices for this fun-filled family musical are \$10-\$12 for juniors/seniors and \$12-\$15 for adults. The Canyon Theatre Guild, Santa Clarita's oldest live theatre, is located at 24242 Main Street in Old Town Newhall. For reservations, call 661/799-2702.

Chills, Thrills On Stage.

The Canyon Theatre Guild is proud to present Maxwell Anderson's hit Broadway drama, "Bad Seed," based on William March's novel. One of Broadway's outstanding hits, the NY Telegram said: "It is solely and honestly meant to entertain. ... As purely purposeful diversion it ranks with 'Dracula' and sometimes sets your spine to as much tingling. ... Chilling."

Colonel and Christine Penmark (Joe Roselund and Laticia Widman) live with their daughter, Rhoda (Fiona Perry) in a small Southern town. Little Rhoda is, on the surface, the sweet

and charming "perfect child" parents dream of. In reality, she is the evil queen of the story.

"Bad Seed" opens on Friday, October 3, with a wine and champagne reception at 7 p.m., and will have performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. through November 1. There will be Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. on October 5, 12 and 19. Ticket prices are \$10-\$12 for juniors under 18 and seniors over 62; Adults are \$12-\$15. For reservations, contact the Canyon Theatre Guild box office at (661) 799-2702. Performances are held at the CTG's Old Town Playhouse, 24242 Main Street, Newhall.