SANTA CLARITA HISTORY CENTER
DISPATCH
A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Published February 6, 2026 | Volume 52

Reformatted archive of the email edition published February 6, 2026. Original announcements and dates are preserved.

February 2026

Let’s get this party started!

Ready? Uh-huh! Our first gala is just a month away!

SCVHS 50 - Live From Santa Clarita, It’s Saturday Night! will be held on **Saturday, March 7** at the Canyon Country Community Center and promises to be nothing like you’ve seen before. Paying homage to another institution that launched in 1975, the SCV Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a unique gala - a fundraiser wrapped up in our own special version of an episode of *Saturday Night Live*. Full of sketches, lots of laughs, steeped in nostalgia for OG Santa Clarita, emceed by local legend **Ed Masterson** and featuring a special musical guest, this party is one you don’t want to miss. And did the headline remind you of the Cheerleaders? They’ll be there, giving it all they’ve got for the History Club! Tickets are $175 per person and are available HERE. Sponsorships (tables of 10) are available by calling the Society directly at (661) 254-1275. (For sponsorship benefits, click HERE). Hope to see you all there!

Nonprofit of the Year? That’s US!

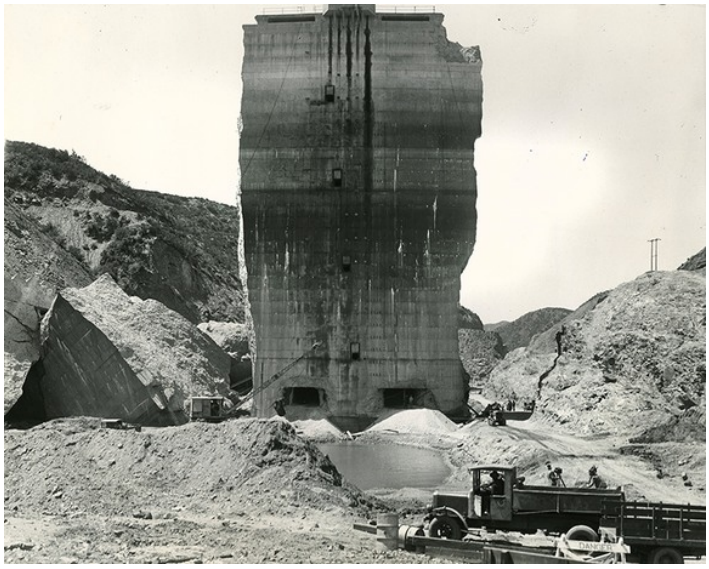
We’re so excited! **The SCV Historical Society has been named by the SCV Chamber of Commerce as their Non-Profit of the Year**! The Society joins six other businesses and individuals who will be recognized at the Chamber’s 103rd Awards and Installation event, being held Friday, February 13 at Cal Arts.

“This year’s honorees represent the very best of Santa Clarita’s business and civic leadership,” said Di Thompson, Chair of the SCV Chamber Board. “Through vision, collaboration, and service, they elevate our community and help ensure its continued success for generations to come.”

For tickets, visit the Chamber’s website at www.scvchamber.com.

And we wouldn’t be the Historical Society if we didn’t share a gem from our YouTube channel looking back at the Chamber’s 90th anniversary. Enjoy!

When’s the Dam Tour?



The “tombstone” fragment of the St. Francis Dam, demolished in May 1929

In years past, the popular tour of the St. Francis Dam disaster site, usually held around the March 12 anniversary, has been rained out and rescheduled. This year, the Society decided to wait a bit and have tentatively scheduled the tour for **Saturday, May 16**. The team of dam experts - **Alan Pollack, Frank Rock, Ann Stansell, and Dianne Hellrigel** - are preparing for that day. As soon as we lock down all the details, we will send the word out on socials and traditional media (best bet: keep watching www.scvhs.org) and let you know that tickets are on sale!

But here’s a special treat - in gratitude for your patience and support over the years, a dam-related video that you’re sure to enjoy.

“Faces of the Flood Path: Remembering the Forgotten Casualties of the St. Francis Dam Disaster,” shares archaeologist Ann Stansell’s comprehensive research on the human cost of California’s deadliest civil engineering failure. Delivered at Rancho Camulos on March 18, 2018, and packed with photos and other visual aids, this talk was part of the 90th anniversary commemoration of the St. Francis Dam Disaster, Drawing from her master’s thesis research and years of archival, genealogical, and field investigation, Stansell focuses on the people who lived, worked, and died along the flood path - and on how they have been remembered, forgotten, and memorialized over time.

We welcome any and all donations to help us with restoration projects, programming and outreach efforts. Why not invest in your history today? Just click “DONATE” below. No amount is too large or too small. Thank you!

DONATE

We’re halfway to our goal!

Subscribe to our YouTube and help us grow our network.

Did you know that the SCVHS has a YouTube account that highlights some of the most colorful historic moments, places and people of the Santa Clarita Valley? See interviews with community leaders, entertainers, race car drivers, entrepreneurs and more. Learn about local businesses and organizations, and some of the new acquisitions at the museums in the History Center. To make sure you don’t miss any local history videos, you can subscribe to the channel (just click the QR code above).

Here’s one of our favorites that is sure to bring back some memories...

History
of the
SAUGUS
Cafe
THE ORIGINAL
Saugus CA
BREAKFAST ALL DAY
LUNCH

Polar Express Success!

Families came in a variety of ensembles (top), docent Guy Horanberg captures a child's first train encounter (center), the team gathers for one last picture

Our experiment with offering up the Mogul 1629 for holiday pictures at the inaugural Polar Express Experience was an overwhelming success! We were hoping for 100 people to come and enjoy the train, caboose, museum, library booth, story time and the hot chocolate and cookies and 380 showed up! WOW!

It was so heartwarming to see the little ones gathered on benches and the rug on the dock to listen to our VP Meredith McGowan read the classic tale - each child receiving a silver bell on a red ribbon as a parting gift. People came dressed up and ready to smile and everybody seemed to have a great time.

Thanks to our volunteer (and amazing) photographer **Josh Premako** for his skills and patience - he was tireless! Kudos also go to Society volunteers **Barbara Martinelli, Ann Kroll, Guy Horanberg, Dean Francuch, Brad Jorgensen, Scott McGowan, Pat Horanberg, Phillip Scorza,** and **Leon Worden**. Special thanks to **Jasmine McCulley** from the Old Town Newhall Library!

Pat and Guy Horanberg nominated for Man and Woman of the Year honors

Volunteers Pat and Guy Horanberg, who give countless hours of their time and talents to the SCVHS, are our nominees for the service award

You may notice in almost every edition of the Dispatch, there is a mention of something wonderful being done by either Pat or Guy Horanberg - sometimes both together - which made them the natural choice to be the SCVHS nominees for 2026 SCV Man and Woman of the Year. The couple can usually be found working on volunteer projects in the station or on the grounds, doing outreach at the library or another park, representing us in the best way (and winning new fans every time) or a variety of other tasks. A gala ceremony on May 1 at the Hyatt will reveal the new official title holders, but in our book, it's Pat and Guy every day.

Who's ready for cowboys and cobbler?

Like the poster says, Hart Park will be the hot spot for the annual **City of Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival April 18 and 19**. Admission is free, and it's the best place to hear all the good cowboy music, do a little dancing, have a cold beverage (it is often notoriously hot during the festival),

chat up a blacksmith, dig into some peach cobbler, pick up some Western merch and enjoy the ambiance. We think Bill Hart is happy to host this party. There are also some off-park events on Friday the 17th that benefit historical charities at Rancho Camulos and the Newhall Family Theatre. Check it out at cowboyfestival.org.

Lunar New Year event at Vasquez Rocks

The Santa Clarita History Center is collaborating with Vasquez Rocks Natural Area and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California for an all-new annual event. Celebrate Lunar New Year, **Sunday, February 15 from 11 am to 3 pm** at Vasquez Rocks, and learn about Chinese and Chinese-American ancestors whose labor and sacrifice still support our daily lives. Learn about railroad and mining history and the Chinese workers' role in building rail lines through the Santa Clarita Valley and Soledad Canyon. Admission is free!

Park information at your fingertips

Since the last edition of the Dispatch, we published a brochure about the Santa Clarita History Center with all kinds of good info and a map of the Center. These brochures are available in the Saugus Train Station Museum at the Center, the main office at Hart Park, hotels in the area and Santa Clarita City Hall. If you would like to put them out at your location, email crock@scvhs.org and we'll get them to you.

HISTORY IS ALL AROUND US!

We are surrounded by like-minded historical and cultural places to visit that offer interesting and entertaining programming! And by visiting, you're helping a nonprofit organization provide educational and recreational programs to your community. Go explore today!

Native American artist Begay at AV Indian Museum

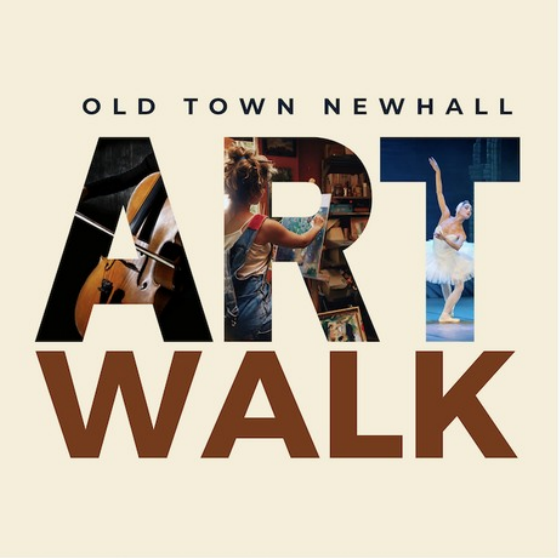
Artist Cecelia Begay (Diné Navajo) will showcase her art, engage with visitors, and answer questions about her work during a show at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum on Feb. 7 and 8, from 11 am to 4 pm each day. Originally from Castle Butte, AZ, in the Navajo Nation, she has lived in the Antelope Valley for more than 30 years. She is well-known for her jewelry crafted from beads, juniper seeds, pine nuts, and shells. All artwork is available for purchase. Admission is $3 for ages 13 and older. The museum is located at 15701 East Avenue M in Lancaster.

Story time with a community favorite at Camulos

Art Hop features youthful creators at Hart Park

Art Hop is a free spring festival celebrating youth creativity and community fun, set for **March 28 at Hart Park**. Families can explore student art, enjoy live performances, take part in hands-on activities and join a timed egg scramble for children ages 10 and younger. Admission to the event is free, free advance registration required for the scramble. For more info, click HERE.

Second annual OTNA ArtWalk set May 16



Old Town Newhall will be alive with art for the second annual **OTNA ArtWalk from noon to 6 pm on Saturday, May 16**. A family-friendly community event that brings people to Main Street by activating local businesses with art, music and creative experiences. Admission is free. Want more details? Got a business in downtown and want to host an artist? Click HERE for more information.

HISTORY HUB

We will be featuring short items from the organizations that surround our Center in every issue; in the meantime, please visit their websites to get information on their upcoming events.

Friends of Hart Park

www.friendsofhartpark.org

Walk of Western Stars

https://oldtownnewhall.com/walk_of_the_western_stars/

Old Town Newhall Walking Tour

https://oldtownnewhall.com/walking-tour/

Placerita Nature Center

www.placerita.org

Vasquez Rocks

https://parks.lacounty.gov/vasquez-rocks-natural-area-and-nature-center

Rancho Camulos Museum

www.ranchocamulos.org

Ft. Tejon Historic Park

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page-id+585

Ridge Route Communities

www.ridgeroutemuseum.org

Fillmore Historical Museum

fillmore.museum@gmail.com

Museum of Neon Art (Glendale)

www.neonmona.org

The Santa Clarita History Center Dispatch is supported, in part, by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of the Creative Recovery LA, an initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan.

It’s not too late! Donate to the SCVHS now by clicking the QR code. Thank you!

The Dispatch is edited by Carol Rock. Questions and comments can be sent to crock@scvhs.org.

SANTA CLARITA HISTORY CENTER

Copyright (C) 2026 Santa Clarita History Center. All rights reserved.