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

Published May 8, 2026 | Volume 52

Reformatted archive of the email edition published May 8, 2026. Original announcements and dates are preserved.

May 2026

Friday Night Flickers are back!

See the Saugus Station from a different camera angle!

Starting May 8 ***(that's tonight!)***, the SCVHS is bringing back **Friday Night Flickers**, the popular movie program that offers an offering you probably won't find on your streaming service at home, accompanied by lots of movie trivia (and facts!) from historian Philip Scorza.

The movies will be shown at Hart Hall in William S. Hart Park at 7 pm.

Opening night is FREE, so grab your popcorn and a seat and enjoy Frank Sinatra's classic "Suddenly," which was filmed on San Fernando Road (now Main Street) and inside the Saugus Train Station when it was in its original location across from the Saugus Café. Plans are to show one of these "vintage" movies on the second Friday of every month. Watch our website for the full lineup of rare and unique film offerings to come!

It was a Western weekend of epic style

Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong perform at Hart Hall during the 30th Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival at William S. Hart Park.

Now that the City of Santa Clarita owns William S. Hart Park, the annual Cowboy Festival (now in it's 30th year!) settled into its real home and thousands of visitors in boots, chaps, and hats came to the housewarming. The park was packed for two days straight for all sorts of Western music, food, games, shopping, exhibits, and activities for every age.

The History Center was in the middle of the action both days, hosting the Whistle Stop Stage and welcoming visitors to the Saugus Train Station Museum, the train yard where they climbed up into the engine cab and rang the bell, and for the first time in several years, the Edison and Kingsburry Houses in Quester Court. Thanks to **Barbara Martinelli, Eva Gritz, Brad Jorgensen, Frank Rock, Tim Williams, Phil Scorza, Gloria and Bruce Fortine**, and **Pat Horanberg** for docenting, working the train yard, and staffing the outreach booth on the festival grounds.

The Court itself was crowded on Saturday, as five couples tied the knot in front of the Ramona Chapel! We wish them all well and hope they come back to visit and re-live those happy moments as the years go by. Special thanks to **Kathy Ensall** for making sure the newlyweds felt at home and had the best photo op on their special day!

The long wait is over, Hart Museum is open!

Santa Clarita City Council Members flank Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; from left, Mayor Pro Tem Patsy Ayala, Councilwoman Marsha McLean, Barger, Mayor Laurene Weste, Councilmember Bill Miranda.

The William S. Hart Museum reopened April 10 with city historical staff and docents eager to share the treasures from Hart's colorful life. More than 100 community members walked through the museum and marveled at artwork and architecture, celebrating the museum's addition to the historic resources in the park.

Group and general tours are available Wednesday through Sunday; preregistration is required for guided tours. Click here for more information and to make reservations.

Hart's living room on the left; at right, members of the Friends of Hart Park board of directors with LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who they presented a commemorative William S. Hart branding iron in gratitude for her service to the park.

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

Who needs streaming when you've got us?

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 scan the QR code above).

Live from Santa Clarita: SUCCESS!

Historical Society Secretary Leon Worden got a flashback seeing Barbara Myler portray his mother, one of many characters in sketches parodying Santa Clarita's early days during the 50th anniversary gala.

Members of the Questers were honored by the Historical Society as the Outstanding Nonprofit for their work in restoring the Edison and Kingsburry Houses at the History Center. Below, a sold-out crowd at the Canyon Country Community Center was entertained by original Saturday Night Live-style parody sketches featuring actors playing community leaders.

We had a party in March to celebrate our 50th anniversary and it was a sold-out success! **SCVHS50: Live From Santa Clarita, It's Saturday Night!** brought a different kind of event entertainment with original sketches about vintage Santa Clarita that got the crowd laughing in homage to another half-century celebrant, NBC's SNL. Table tents reminded guests of historic places that are now just memories and it's fair to say a good time was had by all.

Some prestigious awards were given; The Signal was recognized as Outstanding Business Sponsor for their continual support; the Questers were honored as Outstanding Nonprofit for their work in restoring two of the houses at the History Center and Historical Society President Alan Pollack was named as Outstanding Individual for his leadership and support of the organization over many years.

Mark your calendars for another episode of this unforgettable fundraiser on March 6, 2027!

Young visitors explore museum, train

Kids from the Santa Clarita Adventure Camp enjoyed the steam engine

On April 8, two groups of kids and their chaperones came to the History Center to climb on the steam engine, explore the caboose, and learn all kinds of good things about the railroad in the museum.

A group from the Golden Heart Ranch came all the way from Agoura Hills and joined campers from our own Santa Clarita Adventure Camp for some historic fun! Thanks to **Barbara Martinelli**, **Eva Gritz** and **Guy Horanberg** for showing them a good time.

First cowboys, now critters

On Saturday, May 16, Hart Park is hosting a “Critter Fair” with lots of activities for both humans and their furry friends. **From 10 am to 2 pm**, enjoy interactive exhibits from Placerita Canyon Nature Center, the Mobile Zoo of Southern California, and the Cool Critters Show, along with crafts, games, vendors, food trucks and more!

Animal adoption agencies will be here with new friends to take home - dogs, cats, reptiles and more! Adoption fees will be waived for Los Angeles County shelter pets. Don’t miss it! You might make a new fur-ever friend! Admission is free! Check the map above for available parking. **The Saugus Train Station Museum will be open regular hours, from 1 to 4 pm during the Critter Fair.**

And just around the corner, ART!

On May 16, from noon to 6 pm, discover art around every corner. Take a self-guided tour through Santa Clarita’s Arts & Entertainment District in Old Town Newhall: meet artists, enjoy live performances, explore open studios, do some hands-on art, appreciate local talent and discover original artwork. Click here for an interactive map showing participating locations.

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!

Even more to do on May 16! Enjoy the Crossroads of Culture at Vasquez Rocks Natural Area

Placerita Canyon Open House May 9

A concert to preserve a beloved landmark

Get artsy on a picturesque rancho

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

Did you see the newly-carved bison statue at Hart Hall during Cowboy? He's there for your photo ops and close-up admiration.

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 scanning the QR code. Thank you!

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

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