

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager

FROM: Darren Hernández, Deputy City Manager

DATE: December 12, 2013

SUBJECT: SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS – NOVEMBER 2013

Attached is the statistical report for the Santa Clarita Public Library for November 2013.

Overall statistics for the three Library branches in November 2013 include:

- 66,983 patrons visited the Libraries; 1,410 new Library cards were issued, and 4,050 patrons attended a Library program.
- 113,102 books and materials were circulated by the three branches, and 14,768 holds were filled.
- 17,880 patrons reserved and used a public computer, while 4,281 patrons used the Library's free wireless internet (Wi-Fi).
- The Library's website received 26,235 visits from 9,104 new visitors and 17,131 returning visitors who viewed a total of 46,277 website pages visiting the City's Library website.

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Santa Clarita Public Library November 2013 Programs and Highlights

Autumn programming continued through November 23, which included Science Club, Lego Club for Families, Pajama Storytime, Read to a Dog, Dudes and Dads, Baby Toddler Storytime, School Readiness Storytime, Just for 2's and 3's, A Special Needs Storytime, and Bilingual Storytime. In addition to the regularly scheduled story times, the following are highlights of some of the special programs hosted during November.

History Awareness Month – During the entire month of November, Santa Clarita Public Library celebrated History Awareness Month by offering free historical, educational, and interactive programs. Programming at Old Town Newhall Library included a discussion by the Santa Clarita Valley historian John Boston about Beale's Cut, and a screening of the feature film, JFK, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the JFK Civil Rights Address. The Old Town Newhall Library also hosted the art exhibit, "Honoring Then and Now: Contemporary Art for Native America," which included fine art and photography. The Valencia Library celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address with a screening of the feature film, *Lincoln*, and celebrated Native American Heritage Month with traditional Native American dances demonstrated by professional Native American dancer, Ben Hale. The Canyon Country Library hosted Hart District educators, Laura Arrowsmith and Ron Ippolito, who discussed the connection between the Gettysburg Address and the JFK Civil Rights Address.



Business Owner Workshop – The Old Town Newhall Library offered a free workshop to aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners. The free session helped adults understand the basics of the business and consumer research company, ReferenceUSA, and how to use its online site to find a job, grow their business, and more.

Novel-Writing Month – In celebration of National Novel-Writing Month, Santa Clarita Public Library hosted the event "NaNoWriMo." The three Library branches took turns reserving a quiet Study Room three to four times a week for aspiring adult writers. With the challenge in mind to "write a novel in a month," writers could spend up to four hours a day in the designated quiet writing rooms.

Art Journaling Workshop – Teens were invited to the Old Town Newhall Library to display their interests and talents in a creative journal. During four separate sessions, teens used artistic methods to portray their interests, and had their finished art journals displayed at the Literacy and Arts Festival on December 7.

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Valencia Parking Lot Expansion – On Thursday, November 14, the Valencia Library parking lot expansion was opened, adding 27 additional parking spaces, irrigation, and landscaping enhancements. The new parking lot will ease parking and traffic congestion at the Library, especially during high-attendance Library events such as regularly scheduled story times. The City Council joined City staff to mark the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The Hobbit Events

In honor of the upcoming release of “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,” the Library is hosting free Hobbit-themed events for the community commencing on November 25. The November events include guessing the total number of Smaug’s gold coins and the free screening of “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.”

Holidays at the Santa Clarita Public Library

- **Thanksgiving at the Library** – The Canyon Country branch invited teens and tweens to create their own “No Bake Dessert” for Thanksgiving. The Old Town Newhall branch provided adults and seniors with materials to create Thanksgiving Centerpieces. At the Valencia branch, adults were invited to join a professional chef from the local cooking school, Culinary Wonders, as he demonstrated how to prepare various Thanksgiving salads and side dishes. The Valencia Library also invited school-age children and teens to join the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force of Santa Clarita Valley to create a Tree of Knowledge and Thanksgiving to be displayed at the Arts and Literacy Festival on December 7. The trees celebrate thankfulness of local schools and represent the multinational Project EMUS, an effort to end military use of schools in war zones.

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- **Hanukkah Storytime** – The Valencia, Newhall, and Canyon Country branches all hosted Rabbi Blazer from Temple Beth Ami as he led three special Hanukkah Storytimes for children and their families. Blazer is responsible for launching Santa Clarita Valley's first Hebrew-language charter school and first Jewish Community Center.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting at Newhall** – The City's first "Light Up Main Street" event happened on Saturday, November 9, and was supported by a variety of community partners including the City Council, the Santa Clarita Valley Automobile Dealers Association, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, and the Old Town Newhall Association. The City worked for the first time with a holiday décor company to create a more extensive holiday light and décor display than has been seen in recent years. In front of the Old Town Newhall Library stands a 23-foot lighted Christmas tree.



If you have any questions, please contact me at ext. 4905.

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Attachment

cc: Ed Kieczkowski, City Librarian
Executive Team
Citizens Public Library Advisory Committee
Friends of Santa Clarita Public Library