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**City of Hawthorne 2025 Year in Review: Growth, Strategic Development and Community**

**HAWTHORNE, Calif., December 16** – As 2025 ends, the City of Hawthorne reflects on a year of progress, connection and strategic initiatives.

**Support for Local Economic Development**

In 2025, the City of Hawthorne advanced several key initiatives to strengthen local economic development and long-term financial resilience. The City partnered with Kosmont Companies in February to explore strategic funding opportunities and support infrastructure investment, helping position Hawthorne for sustainable growth. Progress continued in March with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Crenshaw Village Shopping Center Commercial Façade Improvement Project, the first of its kind in over 13 years. The project involves renovating the exterior of the shopping center, offering business owners the opportunity to enhance the appearance of their businesses at no cost.

Additionally, the City secured a court injunction requiring the owners of the long-vacant Hawthorne Mall to begin redevelopment or demolition by August 31, 2026, marking a major step forward for the revitalization of the downtown area. These actions reflect Hawthorne’s commitment to proactive planning and responsible economic stewardship.

The City also celebrated strong business growth. Soft Café opened on Hawthorne Boulevard in September, adding to the City’s expanding dining scene. Hawthorne also welcomed Sports Basement, a major outdoor-gear retailer on Hindry Avenue. Together, these developments reinforce Hawthorne’s role as a growing hub for innovation, commerce and community-focused economic activity.

**Expanding City Services**

Throughout the year, the City of Hawthorne took significant steps to strengthen safety, accessibility and modernize services for residents.

In January, the City demonstrated its preparedness through a coordinated response to the Los Angeles County wildfires. Emergency services worked closely with regional partners to safeguard residents, maintain vital city operations and provide real-time updates through social media and the MyHawthorne311 app. These efforts, along with community support initiatives like an employee-led canned food drive, reinforced Hawthorne’s commitment to public safety.

The City expanded access to essential services in May with the launch of Nate, a new AI-powered chatbot offering 24/7 support for City information and service requests. Alongside the City website chatbot, Hawthorne has leveraged other technology to improve resources, including Wordly for language translation at City service windows and council meetings.

## **Building Community Through Recreation and Events**

This year, the City of Hawthorne advanced its commitment to active, connected community life with new recreation offerings and a major annual event. In April, the City of Hawthorne Community Services Department introduced expanded recreational swim hours at the Hawthorne Aquatics Center. Additionally, the Center continued to host swim lessons, lap swim hours, water aerobics for adults and a junior lifeguard program.

Later that month, the City of Hawthorne and the Hawthorne Parks and Recreation Foundation hosted the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, bringing together 122 golfers and key community sponsors for a day of fundraising and connection. Proceeds from the event will support a new digital billboard at the Hawthorne Memorial Center, enhancing how the city shares programs, resources and upcoming events with residents.

## **State of the City**

The City of Hawthorne hosted its 2025 State of the City event on August 28 at the Hawthorne Aquatic Center. Mayor Alex Vargas spoke to more than 200 attendees, highlighting the City's accomplishments over the past year and sharing an inspiring vision for the year ahead.

## **Sustainability in Action**

Throughout 2025, the City of Hawthorne hosted several events to encourage environmental stewardship, community pride and responsible disposal practices.

In March and April, Hawthorne organized a community clean-up initiative and the annual Spring Event, Earth Day and Service Provider Fair. During the Spring Event, residents joined together to participate in egg hunts and carnival games and take advantage of paper shredding and e-waste collection services.

The City also held a dedicated Paper Shredding and E-Waste Collection Day in November, giving residents a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of sensitive documents and electronic items. These events support Hawthorne's ongoing sustainability goals and promote a culture of environmental stewardship throughout the community.

## **Building for the Future: Senior Center, City Yard and Airport Updates**

This year, the City of Hawthorne took major steps to expand and modernize key facilities, preparing the community for future growth and major global events such as the 2028 Olympics and 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Construction on the Senior Center Project began in February, transforming the facility from 10,800 to 20,000 square feet. The upgraded center will feature improved accessibility, enhanced design, additional outdoor spaces and expanded community programs, providing a welcoming hub for Hawthorne seniors. Completion is expected by April 2026.

Meanwhile, the City Yard Project, which began in January, is creating a modern, centrally located facility to support city operations. Expanding the yard from 79,000 to 162,000 square feet, the new site will offer increased storage, energy-efficient buildings, conference spaces and a two-story public office. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2026.

In November, the City of Hawthorne proudly announced a major step forward in advancing economic development and transportation innovation through a new partnership at the Hawthorne Municipal

Airport. The City Council consented to the assignment of a leasehold interest related to the airport's Master Ground Lease and authorized the city manager to complete the related agreements enabling Archer Aviation to assume a 75% interest in the airport's master lease. The partnership will bring infrastructure improvements, new job opportunities and global visibility to the community.

### **Local Events Bolster Community Spirit**

Throughout 2025, the City of Hawthorne offered residents of all ages a wide range of events, bringing the community together to play, celebrate and connect.

The annual Juneteenth Celebration featured live music, food trucks, arts and crafts and a car show. Residents honored the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and celebrated freedom, heritage and unity.

Summer activities brought a full schedule of family-friendly programs across the city's parks and recreation facilities. From June through August, residents enjoyed free park programs at six locations, featuring games, wading pools and free lunches. Families also enjoyed evening entertainment with Movies in the Park at Hawthorne Memorial Park and Movies at the Pool at the Aquatics Center, creating countless opportunities to make summer memories.

In October, the City celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with cultural performances, refreshments and local vendors, highlighting the histories and achievements of Hawthorne's Hispanic community. Community engagement continued with the 3rd annual Touch a Truck event, where children explored construction, police and city vehicles, and received free books from the Hawthorne Library. Later that month, families embraced the Halloween spirit with the Halloween Home Decorating Contest and Spooktacular Carnival, featuring festive games, a costume contest and food trucks.

The year will conclude with the Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Holiday Festival later this month, where residents showcase creative light displays while enjoying seasonal activities, photos with Santa and family-friendly games.

For more details on 2025's successes, visit the City of Hawthorne's official website at [CityofHawthorne/Government/City-Press-Releases](https://www.cityofhawthorne.com/government/city-press-releases).