

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



As 2014 draws to a close, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, I want to thank all of you for your diligent efforts during this challenging year. By working together as a team rather than as individuals, we were able to successfully accomplish a lot in 2014. Looking back, some of the City's more noteworthy achievements were:

- ▶ Developed a multi-pronged approach to finance the second phase of the tenant improvements for the new police facility on Betteravia Road.
- ▶ Coordinated the first "outside" facilitated City Council Goal-Setting Exercise that resulted in a Council approved two-year work plan for goals and objectives.
- ▶ Produced and screened the acclaimed gang prevention documentary film, "Life Facing Bars," which has received over 160,000 views on YouTube.
- ▶ Successfully coordinated and held the largest-ever City Council and Planning Commission meeting(s) at the Santa Maria Fairpark for an appeal of the planned development for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility by providing a venue to hear community concerns without needing police intervention.
- ▶ Completed the final phase of the Santa Maria River Levee Reinforcement Construction Project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure enhanced long-term flood control protection for the City's residents and businesses.

▶ Improved and addressed neighborhood concerns by interacting with hundreds of residents at the National Night Out event, thousands of residents by way of the "Walk and Talk" outreach events, two Serve Santa Maria events, and through a town hall meeting and subsequent development of an action plan.

▶ Initiated efforts to become the first City in the western United States to voluntarily produce an integrated watershed-based plan.

▶ Facilitated the first two Measure U2012 Citizens' Oversight Committee Meetings in compliance with Council's direction of the expenditure of funds.

▶ Received a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to operate the future landfill at Los Flores Ranch.

▶ The Fire Department and Police Department worked together to cooperatively implement a unified response to violent incidents, the first program of its type in the County.

▶ Connected Allan Hancock College to the secondary landscaping irrigation system, achieving an overall conversion of 200 acre-feet of domestic supply to untreated groundwater supply.

▶ Secured City Council approval of the draft Housing Element for 2015, and forwarded it to the State for review and approval.

While the above is only a sample of some of our accomplishments, we were also able to complete more than \$700,000 of sidewalk repairs and improvements, completely remodel the Public Works Yard wash rack facility, launched the Holiday Shopping Shuttle, started televising Planning Commission and Park Commission meetings, placed two new fire engines into service,

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provided training opportunities to Library personnel, hosted the first-ever tri-county radio, voice and data interoperability summit, placed into service 14 new model Police Interceptor patrol cars including two supervisor SUVs, replaced 10 older buses to provide reliable public transit, and successfully transitioned budget preparation into Eden financial software, among many other accomplishments.

And as we close 2014, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your families during the upcoming holiday season, and wish you all the best in 2015.

Rick
