

January 2015

Birthstone: Garnet
Flower: Carnation

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



As we start off 2015 with New Year's resolutions and new beginnings, we're also bringing in this New Year with a new website look and functions.

The dynamic new website offers new navigation, and new features including Spanish translation and font sizing, plus other tools such as calendars which will be activated in coming weeks.

The address remains www.cityofsantamaria.org. The new website is best viewed using a modern browser like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 or above. The website is not fully compatible with Internet Explorer 8 or previous versions (you can view most of the content, but some is obscured at the top of the webpages).

Information Technology is aware of this. Most City computers are equipped with Internet Explorer 8; there will be modern browsers installed as I.T. transitions computers to Windows 7/Microsoft Office 2013 – this is a current and ongoing process. Updates to individual computers are concurrent with training.

I have asked Department Heads to review all website content for their respective departments and to notify **Mark van de Kamp** with requested corrections. In addition to his other duties, Mark will now be serving as our webmaster for nearly all webpages. Also, in addition to her other duties, Chief Deputy City Clerk **Rhonda Garietz** will be responsible for posting all agendas, minutes, and meeting videos for City Boards and Commissions. Mark and Rhonda will also be

cross-training each other and backing-up each other as it pertains to website administration. By bringing website postings in-house, this substantially reduces ongoing annual operational expenses.

Our hope is that the new site's modern appearance and functions will aid in recruitment and overall customer service. Further, the site is mobile-friendly, meaning it shape-shifts to fit smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers. This is important because 25 percent (and increasing) of website traffic comes from mobile devices. The new vendor, which has 500+ websites to its credit, offers professional support, secure hosting, and this system gives us room to grow as an online City.

The website is a work in progress and my office welcomes feedback on how to improve it for our customers. We are exploring more features and functions such as enhanced online payments, calendars, and City videos.

Looking ahead to February 19th, the City will host its 52nd Annual Employee Service Awards Dinner (see page three for details) to honor those employees who have earned Service Awards, or who have retired from City service in the 2014 year. This is an opportunity to highlight their dedication and accomplishments in the context of serving our community. I encourage all of you to come out and join us for this very festive night and help celebrate your co-workers' service awards.

Rick