

February 2015

Birthstone: Amethyst
Flower: Violet or Primrose

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



February is a month in which we celebrate some great events – the Super Bowl, two of our greatest President’s birthdays, Valentine’s Day, as well as our Employee Service Awards Banquet.

This year’s Super Bowl lived up to its name – it was a great game with an exciting finish! We couldn’t have seen a closer game if we had tried. America has a love for football as well as a love for some of our most distinguished past Presidents, and that’s why we honor them this month – to pay tribute to their legacy and what they did for our Country.

We also honor our fellow City employees that celebrated some significant milestones this past year, by hosting our 52nd Annual Employee Service Awards Dinner. This year, the dinner will be held on Thursday, February 19th at the Veterans’ Memorial Center.

Confucius once said, “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” I know many of our employees love what they do and this year we’re celebrating 54 employees that have provided our residents and businesses with over 963 years of combined dedicated public service to this community. That is 2 million hours of work. Wow! I mean, come on, neither *Oprah* nor *60 Minutes* lasted that long!!

There were a number of long-term City employees that retired this past year which got me to think about the impact they had on their respective departments, on our organization, on the community, and the lasting impression they left upon all of us.

Their contributions, creativity, dedication, productivity, and understanding that local government makes an important difference in people’s lives, all helped to en-

sure the health, safety, and welfare of our community. In a very real way, also, to attract and retain residents and businesses. What we do every day has a direct impact on the quality of life in Santa Maria.

Their attitude and actions represented the City – and contributed to how we are perceived by our customers. I believe that people who cultivate a positive mind-set perform better in the face of challenges. Those who retired this past year were engaged and were stimulated by their work, and some of them left a lasting mark on this organization and helped mentor others.

We can always continue to learn and share our knowledge with others. Several years ago, the City started the “Going the Extra Mile” Program. This program recognizes outstanding employees for: Exhibiting effective leadership on specific assignments; demonstrating positive service to a customer or co-worker; going “above and beyond” the call of duty; showing special initiative, creativity, teamwork, cost containment efforts and entrepreneurial spirit in providing a high level of customer service; and consistently embracing the City’s service standards. We will be recognizing our GEM recipients at the service awards dinner.

I hope to see many of you at the banquet. To all employees and retirees being recognized, I say thank you. To all of our employees, I say thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the City and its residents and businesses.

We should all be thankful that we have so many experienced, dedicated and hard-working employees to work with, and alongside, as we continue to provide exceptional municipal services to the community.

Rick