

November 2015

Birthstone: Citrine or Topaz
Flower: Chrysanthemum

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



During the month of November, we should all take time out to give thanks. We start out the month remembering those who protected our freedom by way of acknowledging our service personnel on Veterans Day (November 11th), and then toward the end of the month we celebrate Thanksgiving by spending time with those whom we hold special bonds with while enjoying turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, pumpkin pie and watching football (go Cowboys!).

This November, Walmart is sponsoring the *Greenlight A Vet* initiative where individuals are encouraged to change one light to green in a visible location at your home (like your porch light) and keep it glowing every day as a symbol of appreciation and support for our veterans. My dad was a disabled veteran from WWII and I have a number of friends and relatives that are veterans. I think that the *Greenlight A Vet* is a great way to say thank you for their service and sacrifice. I will be changing out one of my porch lights, and our staff has changed out a couple of our lights here at City Hall. I encourage you to join me in this recognition initiative. You can find out more about this initiative by going to <http://www.greenlightavet.com/>



P.F.C.
Robert
Haydon

As we prepare for and celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember that the holiday's name is a compound word – Thanks and Giving. Thanksgiving is a time to remember and consider those occasions where

someone helped to enlighten us, and moments of grace or inspiration that have gotten us through a tough day.

Each of us has much to be thankful for - our lives, families, friendships, and our jobs. Please take the time to express your gratitude in words and deeds. Say "Thank You" more than a few times in the next few weeks. Honor a co-worker, a family member, or a neighbor who was there for you when you needed them most.

Take the time to thank those whom we love, admire, depend upon, and with whom we have positive relationships. All of us have been affected by someone who told us something for our own good, shared a hard lesson of life, or stayed up late at night on the phone to be a friend.

We should all be thankful for what we have, and in turn, we should take the time to also help those less fortunate. We can do so by giving time and/or financial support to worthy causes. One way you can do this is by partnering with local charities and other non-profit organizations. Historically, the City has provided a convenient opportunity for employees to do this by donating to the United Way. I encourage you to read the United Way article in this Pathfinder edition for more information on how you can make a difference in the lives of others.

By working together and by helping out those less fortunate, we can make a difference in our community – and as public servants, that is one of our callings. Enjoy your time away from the office during the upcoming Thanksgiving Day holiday, and please be safe as you all play an important part in the future of the City of Santa Maria.

Rick