

December 2015

Birthstone: Topaz or Tanzanite
Flower: Narcissus or Holly

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



As 2015 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 so much in 2015. Looking back, some of the City's more noteworthy achievements were:

- ▶ Successfully moving into the impressive new state-of-the-art Police headquarters. This new facility will serve the community for decades with a modern crime lab, a larger detective bureau, and much more.
- ▶ Initiating three separate employee leadership academies for succession planning for lead workers and supervisors, middle managers, and executive managers.
- ▶ Upgrading more than 450 computers to Office 2013 and Windows 7, and providing software training in Office, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.
- ▶ Completing a Utilities capacity study to more accurately determine future water and sewer infrastructure needs throughout the City, and integrating those findings into the structure for growth mitigation fees.
- ▶ Meeting the State's 16 percent reduction in urban water use as compared to the same months in 2013, through conservation efforts by consumers including City departments.
- ▶ Being an official host town for the Special Olympics

World Games, and hosting nearly 100 athletes from foreign countries.

- ▶ Installing new dual-band mobile and portable radios in about 60 vehicles at the Police and Fire Departments, in preparation for the installation and cutover to the City's new 700 MHz trunked simulcast radio system next year.
- ▶ Launching a new and robust City website with a cleaner and simpler appearance, plus a [YouTube Channel for City videos](#), an interactive online form, calendars, Spanish translation, and much more, while reducing City website expenses.

While the above is only a sample of some of our accomplishments, we were also able to create the new Code Compliance volunteer program, commence supplemental water deliveries to the Nipomo Community Services District to help protect the Santa Maria Valley groundwater basin, begin transitioning to the new ShoreTel telephone system, installing old parking meters and converting them to accept donations for nonprofit services for the homeless, adopting a new program to address illegal fireworks, improving the speed and accuracy of customers' bill-paying visits at the Utility Billing Counter, installing new recycling containers at all City parks, launching the nonprofit Santa Maria Public Library Foundation, initiating the renovation of Oakley Park which will be finished next year, opening the Los Alamos branch library, and participating in two Serve Santa Maria events to beautify the community, among many other accomplishments.

And as we close 2015, 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 2016.

Rick