

November 2016

Birthstone: Citrine or Topaz
Flower: Chrysanthemum

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



Word has it, that this month is that time of the year that we should all pause and give thanks for what we have. This month starts off remembering those who have protected our freedom and liberty. Friday, November 11th is Veteran's Day, a day in which we acknowledge the men and women in our armed forces and we thank them for their sacrifices and their service.

Later this month, we celebrate Thanksgiving by spending time with family and friends enjoying the traditional turkey with all the trimmings, pumpkin pie and watching football (how 'bout those Cowboys!!). This year, the Cowboys-Redskins game finally has some meaning with the Cowboys leading the NFC at 7-1...but enough about football, let's talk more about being thankful.

Inspiring others and motivating others (especially for those of us in the public sector) are key essentials to having an effective organization. I believe in valuing others and I have made it a point to engage each department head in discussions regarding the merits of valuing each other and their subordinates.

Last month I invited a good friend of mine, Coach Joe Callero, the Cal Poly Men's Basketball Coach to come down to Santa Maria and talk to employees about the importance of valuing and influencing others.

Coach Callero talked about how important it is to connect with those around you and how you can make a positive influence on those you work with. He left us with a number of good practical points to implement. He also indicated that in order to be a great coach, you

must first be a great husband or father, or a great wife or mother. Bottom line, it starts with you and on the home front.

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. All of us have been affected by someone who told us something for our own good, shared a hard lesson of life, or who stayed up late at night, either talking on the phone or texting, 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 who are less fortunate. We can do so by giving time and/or financial support to a worthy cause 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 local charities and other non-profits through the United Way. You might even consider the Toys for Tots program. By working together and by helping those less fortunate, we can make a difference in our community – and as public servants, that is one of our callings.

Rick