

January 2017

Birthstone: Garnet
Flower: Carnation

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



A few words from your City Manager

Rick Haydon



Happy New Year everyone! By now you have all made it through, or should I dare say, “survived” the holidays. For a lot of us, 2016 just flew by and now we’re in 2017 and we begin a new year. January always brings about change and fresh new perspectives which is fitting because the word January comes from the Latin word Janus which means “new beginnings.” And as we start off 2017 with New Year’s resolutions and new beginnings, we’re also bringing in this New Year with some new leadership as well.

This month, January, we begin the year with a new President to lead our nation, a new City Council to lead our City, and a new Department Head to lead our Department of Community Development as well as the start of our new Speaker Series for 2017 and the introduction of our new Leadership Development Studies course.

Last month, we said good-bye to a number of long-term City employees as well as a couple of Councilmembers, Councilmember **Terri Zuniga** and Councilmember **Bob Orach**. Bob served the City for over 30 years on the Santa Maria City Council and was the longest serving Councilmember in the bi-county area when he retired.

As we say good-bye to Terri and Bob, we also welcome aboard two new Councilmembers, both of whom are no strangers to City government. **Mike Cordero** has returned to the City Council and joins newly elected **Michael Moats** on the Council dais. Mike Cordero served on the City Council previously from 2008 to 2012, and

prior to being on the Council he was a member of the Santa Maria Police Department for over 36 years. Michael Moats is a local dermatologist and was a member of the Planning Commission for seven years. In addition to the above two new Councilmembers, Mayor Patino was also re-elected to the Santa Maria City Council as well.

Another new face around Santa Maria will be our new Director of Community Development **Chuen Ng** (pronounced Chun Ing). Chuen started on January 9th. Chuen comes to us from the City of Lancaster and he takes over for recently retired **Larry Appel**.

On Thursday, January 12th we’ll be having our first Speaker Series of the year with a presentation on “4.8 employees per 1,000 residents – why is the City so lean compared to other Central Coast cities?” followed by “What the Bell?! – to Bell and Back” by former City of Bell Interim City Manager **Ken Hampian**.

On the third Friday of each month, starting on March 17th from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m. in the Library’s Shepard Hall, we will be having a Leadership Development Study course called “The Art of Leadership.” This interactive course is designed to provide confidence and self-awareness for those in a leadership position as well as those being groomed for leadership positions such as supervisors and managers. I look forward to rolling out this leadership course series as well as working with all of you in 2017 as we continue to provide the type of quality municipal services our residents and businesses have come to expect from us.

Rick