

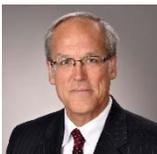


Pathfinder

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”
- Andrew Carnegie

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

Happy New Year! As we start off 2019 with New Year’s resolutions and continue to move forward as a team of professionals, we also celebrate some of the City’s more noteworthy 2018 accomplishments:

- Achieved strong voter passage (74.18 percent) of Measure U2018, extending and enhancing the local sales tax at the one-cent rate, to support essential City services. The City will begin receiving this revenue in July. This pivotal decision will help solve the \$8.5 million General Fund budget gap.
- With an estimated 1,000 in attendance, rededicated Buena Vista Park following a complete \$1.5 million makeover including trees, play areas, walkways, a grand entrance, and more.
- Successfully transitioned to the first City Council district elections held in November. The City Council will continue its practice of governing with a Citywide perspective.
- Finished construction of the fiber-optic ring with our partner, Wave Broadband, to bring reliable, high-speed Gigabit fiber-based connectivity services to City departments, and eventually, to businesses.
- Provided plan review and inspection services to facilitate the accelerated development of the Enos Ranch shopping center, with numerous new businesses opening in 2018.

- Employees across several departments provided mutual aid to outside agencies following the deadly debris flows in Montecito, wildfires, and a hurricane.
- Departments worked with the Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Safety to enhance prevention and intervention efforts in an effort to mitigate the effects of youth violence.
- With extensive community input, crafted a streetscape plan that aims to make downtown more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. The Planning Commission gave its approval; the plan next goes to the City Council.
- Hosted the successful Central Coast Technology Summit to share with businesses, agencies, and schools how they can leverage the City’s new regional communication system.
- Enhanced fire protection services with the Federally supported, 62-foot-long aerial ladder tiller truck, replacing the worn 1999-era truck.
- Implemented CalPERS cost-sharing with labor groups, in which employees contribute a percentage toward the pension cost.

That list is only a sample of our numerous accomplishments. We also made progress toward future traffic flow improvements at three interchanges along Highway 101; paved numerous neighborhood streets using new SB-1 Gas Tax revenues (which voters retained); enabled residents and businesses to proactively register the locations of their video surveillance systems; initiated a formal database of streets by condition; the Public Library transitioned its bookstore, café vendor, expanded its Makerspace program, and introduced

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programs for many other patrons; held a series of five community meetings to discuss impacts of the Federal H-2A temporary worker program; received a \$2.2 million grant to improve 22 signalized intersections; neared completion on the \$1.2 million road improvement project at Los Flores Ranch for the future integrated waste management facility; launched a new website portal for public meeting agendas, minutes, and videos; the Utilities Department was awarded Green Business Certification in recognition of its "green" initiatives; the successful "The Patch" partnership with Betteravia Farms; implemented the 9/80 Alternative Schedule; partnered with Central Coast MMASC to host the first annual Women in Leadership event; and hosted the first annual Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day.

These great results help our community, and are possible by all of us pulling together. For the new year, our goals are to continue working together to better serve the City, keeping a balanced budget, retaining and recruiting the best talent possible, all while keeping Santa Maria a great place to live and work. We will continue to move forward with downtown revitalization, keep the peace, grow more businesses and wonderful programs and services for our residents. I wish all of you the best in 2019.

Jason