

Fall 2014

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 started 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 while enjoying roasted turkey, gravy, pumpkin pie and watching football (how 'bout those Cowboys!).

And 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.

Be optimistic. Your work, the gifts you share, and the examples you set are an inspiration. Consider the Toys

for Tots program. 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.

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, and you can do this 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. This workplace campaign is an excellent opportunity to open your hearts and help make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our community. This year's campaign is being led by employees **Lisa Long, Eli Coleman, and Neda Zayer**.

United Way pledge forms and brochures will be distributed with paychecks on November 20, are posted on the United Way folder on the City's Intranet, and will be available from your Department Secretary. Individual Departmental meetings will be scheduled. There will be plenty of information on the many ways that you can get involved, and how the United Way can help families.

Pledge forms are due by December 5 and you may designate where your donation goes. All employees who complete the pledge form to donate to the United Way will be entered in a drawing. You could even win a paid day off.

So much good can be accomplished with even a modest monthly donation, or through a few hours of volunteerism. Remember, every little bit helps make a difference.

Rick