

November 2017

Birthstone: Citrine or Topaz
Flower: Chrysanthemum

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



A few last words from your City Manager

Rick Haydon



November is a time of thanksgiving, it's a time to usher in a new season, it is also a time for change.

We started off the month ushering in the upcoming Christmas Season (I know, it's not even Thanksgiving yet) with the start of the Annual Toys 4 Tots campaign here at City Hall (see photo). Last week, we changed our clocks back an hour as we concluded Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, November 5th. The end of Daylight Savings time always concludes on the first Sunday in November, thereby giving us all another hour to sleep in on Sunday!



This week brings us Veterans Day on November 11th. This special day is a time to honor and acknowledge the fine men and women that have made personal sacrifices (some, the ultimate sacrifice) so that we can live in a land of freedom.

The last few years, Walmart has sponsored the Greenlight A Vet campaign and encouraged people to change out one or more of their outside lights at their home to green as a symbol of appreciation and support for our veterans. My dad was a distinguished disabled vet from WWII having received two bronze campaign stars and two Purple Hearts; I have other

relatives and friends that were veterans as well. So I think the #greenlightavet initiative is a great way of saying thank you for their service and sacrifice. The Haydon household will be changing out its outside lights for this occasion and I will be asking City staff to change out some of the lights here at City Hall as well, and I would encourage all of you to join us in this recognition.



**P.F.C.
Robert
Haydon**

Later this month we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving, and as we prepare to celebrate this holiday, we must remember that it's made up of two words, "thanks" and "giving." So this holiday season, don't forget to give thanks to those you hold near and dear - to those friends, family members, neighbors or co-workers that have helped you out this past year. Think about those that you owe a debt of gratitude to, and how they have helped make a difference in your life – and thank them.

Having said that, I owe each and every one of you a big THANK YOU for all of your hard work and dedication that you've given the City. I've been blessed with the privilege and honor of being your City Manager for the last six years, and to have worked alongside many of you for the last 21 years. Together, we have accomplished some pretty remarkable things for the City and the community. And while I leave behind a lot of cherished memories and incredible experiences, I also leave behind an extremely competent management team to which I turn over the reigns.

We have a great nucleus here in the City, we have a great City Council, an exceptional management team, and I know that under Jason Stilwell's leadership, the City will continue to accomplish a lot in the years to come. So I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and I thank you for being a big part of my life these past 21 years.

Rick