



# Pathfinder

"You must have long-term goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures."

Charles C. Noble

## Teamwork Matters

*A message from  
the City Manager*



JASON STILWELL

**I want to wish you and your families a very happy New Year, and hope all of us enjoy a successful and prosperous 2018. New Year's resolutions provide an opportunity to set a new course, refine your priorities, and step back and evaluate how the past year has been and to consider the changes you want for the coming year.**

As a City, we have a great year ahead of us with a number of new things, changes, and events on the horizon:

In with the new - 2018 promises the completion of Enos Ranch, with even more stores including Dick's Sporting Goods, Old Navy, Xfinity, Urbane Café, HomeGoods, Petco, Ulta Beauty, Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab, Blaze Pizza, Kirkland's, Osh Kosh Kids, Carter's, America's Best Glasses and Contact Lenses, Mattress Express, the Habit Burger Grill, Chick-fil-A, and Jack in the Box. The development includes a combination of retail businesses, office building, auto dealers, a City park, and multi-family residences. The Santa Maria-Bonita School District is buying 10.5 acres at the development's northwest corner for its 21<sup>st</sup> campus, and construction may start by December 2018 or January 2019.

Fiscal challenges promise to result in changes in how we do our jobs. As we have shared previously, we will try to maintain current levels of service while avoiding unnecessary layoffs. Budgetary challenges will impact operations and maintenance, employee compensation and benefits, vacancies, the number of City fleet vehicles, and so on. Retirement costs are projected to

rise sharply and steadily over the next four years, and we are all working to assure that the benefits promised are able to be delivered.

On the November 2018 ballot, we begin district elections. Voters will decide two City Council seats: District 3 (the southwest portion of the City) and District 4 (the southeast portion). Incumbent Councilman Jack Boysen resides in District 3, and Councilwoman Etta Waterfield lives in District 4.

Also, we are aiming to place before voters a November 2018 ballot measure to renew Measure U2012, the City's general purpose one-quarter cent transactions and use tax. Soon, our professional polling survey firm will gauge if there exists sufficient voter support. Then we will need to educate voters. No City funds or time can be used on the election campaign; that will rely upon private financial donations and volunteers.

Change is a part of life and we have been adaptable to change in Santa Maria as our number of customers have increased, more residents call Santa Maria home, and as we have all become more proactive to address change. We have had some big retirements this past month; please join me on reflecting on the good work these employees did for the City and the friendship and fond memories we have working beside them.

We are all in this together; our common interest is to ensure Santa Maria remains a great place to live and work, and we are always at the public's service. I am proud that the people who work for the City of Santa Maria deliver excellent customer service 365 days of the year by rolling up their sleeves and getting the work done.

As I settle into my new role of City Manager, drop me a line, share your thoughts, and let me hear from you.

*Jason*