



# Pathfinder

"I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world."

Jack Lew

## Teamwork Matters

*A message from  
the City Manager*



JASON STILWELL

**The week of May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup> is Public Service Recognition Week, to promote awareness of the roles performed by civil servants. Here are some highlights, which we also will share with the world through the news media and the City's social media platforms.**

The Police Department, for supporting the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Safety, to help local families with at-risk youth. Also, recognizing our Communications Center of 19 full-time dispatchers. They handle 465 incoming calls every day (that's 170,000 per year). They handle 170 emergency 9-1-1 calls daily.

Our Fire Department gave extraordinary help following fires in Napa and Santa Barbara/Ventura County, and the January 9<sup>th</sup> Debris Flows in Montecito. Also, Fire Marshal **Darrell Delgado** uses his portable radio as a pillow and can be found responding to investigate a fire before the Incident Commander even requests a response.

Account Clerk-Scalehouse **Chris Evangelista** learned to operate heavy equipment so he could fill-in when the Landfill was shorthanded. And, the Utilities Department recently was recognized by the County for becoming "Green Business" certified.

Transit Manager **Austin O'Dell** found 17 used commuter buses from Antelope Valley to replace the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's Clean Air Express fleet. This will save an estimated \$10 million compared to the cost of purchasing new buses.

City Rangers provide law enforcement, safety, and

service in all City Parks, facilities (such as the Library and Transit Center), and parking structures. Rangers work very closely with the Police and other Departments, nonprofits, and many downtown merchants. On a related note, congratulations to Senior Park Services Officer **Casey Stone** for being our newest Going The Extra Mile (GEM) Award winner, for his initiative in efforts to address on a Citywide basis, illegal activities of homeless individuals.

Public Library staff whose behind-the-scenes work makes possible many programs like the Makerspace Saturdays, classes about computers, and the counselor at the lobby desk.

Building Division inspectors provided inspection services for a significant amount of new construction that has occurred during the past year, including Enos Ranch and other residential developments.

The Code Compliance Division, spearheaded by **Joy Castaing**, who took a particular interest in an area of the City (public alley parallel to S. Railroad, between West Stowell and West Morrison) that had blight, illegal dumping, and parking issues and applied for a grant to finance improvements in the area that will substantially improve the aesthetics for the local residents.

Our Information Technology staff for ongoing efforts with Wave Broadband to bring high-speed Gigabit service to Santa Maria this year.

The Finance and Utility Billing divisions for their teamwork to successfully provide the high level of customer service. And, thanks to Finance Clerk II **Tina Garcia** for, among other duties, handling the vast majority of the payroll function so far this year.

Again, we are grateful to recognize our hundreds of public servants for the valuable work they provide our community.

*Jason*