



Pathfinder

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

Michael Jordan

Teamwork Matters

*A message from
the City Manager*



JASON STILWELL

I encourage all employees to read the 2018-20 budget document online at www.cityofsantamaria.org/budgets. On June 19th, the City Council is to adopt the two-year budget. Service level impacts of the proposed budget reductions are identified in the Noteworthy Budget Highlights for each department.

Our customers will see and feel results of budget constraints—such as reduced watering of City parks. We are getting the word out that many City's administrative offices will be closed every Friday starting June 29th.

Additionally, the City will begin 9/80 staff schedules on June 23rd. The 9/80 staff schedules have full-time employees voluntarily work eight 9-hour days and one 8-hour day over a two-week period for a total of 80 hours of work over nine days instead of 10 days. The tenth day is a day off for the employee. Most employees have selected Friday every other week as their day off.

The light staffing levels on Fridays, coupled with staff reductions heading into the next fiscal year and the need to maintain vacancies, has led us to close administrative offices to the public on Fridays. This is not for our convenience. The City will hold vacancies (as it's done for several years to help balance the budget) longer to achieve salary savings, resulting in lower levels of service and increased impacts on existing employees.

Employees will work their regular shifts, but the administrative office closures will enable the lighter staffing levels to be able to complete their work without having to staff the public counter. It is another way of

the City being able to complete work requirements in a timely manner with lower staffing levels.

Administrative office closures will affect City Hall, the Ruffoni Building (Community Development and Public Works Administration), the City Attorney's Office, and Fire Administration. Daily field operations will continue unaffected. There will be issues that will need to be coordinated in all departments to assure work can continue to be completed effectively.

Over the past 10 years, the City's General Fund has faced multi-million dollar budget deficits and has had to rely on one-time reserves and expenditure savings to present a balanced budget. Although the national, state, and local economies are growing, from an operational perspective, our operating revenues are still not sufficient enough to finance our expenditures. The 2018-19 budget gap is \$8.5 million.

The City is experiencing impacts as a result of the growing misalignment of revenues to expenditures. Fewer dollars than necessary have been set aside to replace the City's fleet, funding for potential liability claims is at a lower confidence level than is prudent, reserves and "rainy day" funds have been reduced by millions of dollars, and funding is not available for deferred maintenance and repair or replacement of facilities such as the old police station or old library.

The City will use up the last of its reserve dollars in its Local Economic Augmentation Fund (LEAF) by 2019-20. Then it will resort to tapping the General Fund's economic stabilization fund for the first time outside of a recession.

We are heading into summer (June 21st) following graduations. The 9/80 gives many, more family time. To all, keep life in perspective by enjoying summertime and vacation time.

Jason