



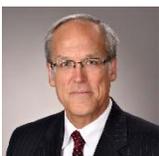
Pathfinder

“Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you’ll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life and you’ll find that you have more of it.”

- Ralph Marston

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

During the month of November, we should all pause to give thanks to those we love, admire, depend upon, learn from, and with whom we have positive relationships. We are grateful to exercise our right to vote (Election Day is November 6th). We remember those who protected our freedom on Veterans Day (November 11th), and we celebrate Thanksgiving (November 22nd). It’s also a month to give back.

At the recent State of the City address, the Mayor and I reported that our community is stronger now than in 2017. Thankfully, we have made a lot of progress in increasing places for people to work, play, and serve. Crime has dropped in the first six months of 2018 compared to last year, unemployment is lower, and housing prices are rising. Efforts to revive downtown continue, the Santa Maria Town Center mall has a new owner interested in the community, and businesses are expanding and creating jobs.

The outcome of the election in Santa Maria will be pivotal for the community. This is the first district election for City Council in the City’s history, with seats to be decided for District 3 and District 4. The Public Safety/Essential Services Measure U, if enacted, would continue to the City’s existing voter-approved sales tax at the one-cent rate. Either we will have to balance our budget and stop using reserves and reduce services, or we will be able to maintain and enhance services.

I am thankful for learning from others, often through what I read. For example, District Attorney Joyce Dudley told me her favorite book is *The Contrarian’s Guide to Leadership* (available at our Library) One of the most recent I read was *Execution* by Larry Bossidy (also available from our Library). The book is a good reflection on how getting things done is what counts in the end. There is an excellent supervisory reading list on the Intranet (Human Resources tab, Professional Development section). Pass this list along to coworkers or anyone else you think would benefit. You may find some pearls of wisdom in these books. Share with me the books you are reading, or have read, that made a difference in your life and that help you live a full, balanced life and succeed at work.

This month provides opportunities to help those less fortunate. 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.

United Way presentations will be made at City departments. Pledge forms are available from your Department Secretary and via the Intranet. Forms are due back in December, and you may designate where your donation goes. This year’s campaign committee is **Alma Mendez, Genesis Negrete, and Mark van de Kamp.**

In closing, be thankful for what we have. Take a look at this month’s quote in the masthead of this newsletter.

Jason