



Pathfinder

"Summer afternoon – summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

– Henry James, American-British author

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

Summer's here! There are at least 100 fun and amazing ways to revel in the season in Santa Maria. Farmer's markets. Concerts in the Park! Library events. Baseball games. Barbecues. Strawberries on top of everything.

It's great to see summer fun happening. The first thing I think of when I think of summer is the weather. The warm days are perfect for getting outdoors. As Joe Nichols sings, "Takes me somewhere sunny and 75." We average 74 degrees in July, and 75 degrees in August.

The food. Juicy summer peaches. Sweet strawberries. Mint, lime, and ginger beer sparklers. Grill some burgers and hot dogs, or better yet, barbecue some tri-tip and beans! After all, Sunset Magazine crowned us "[The West's Best BBQ Town](#)." Do a big cook-out with friends and family.

Pool days. Jump in the pool at the Paul Nelson Aquatics Center, with its Olympic-sized competition pool, as well as the recreational pool with that fan-shaped zero-depth entry. Remember, if you are a City employee, bring your ID (employees are free).

Spending time with family. Grab a lawn chair and blanket, and [enjoy hit movies](#) with friends and family members under the stars at one of our local community parks. Or, during the afternoons, enjoy our free [Concerts in the Park](#) now through September 8th.

[Ideal home base](#). It is wonderful to have so many leisure options. That is part of the reward of hard work. The payoff. The reward. Who would argue that sitting inside all day makes one yearn to go outside and hike, or shoot hoops, or hike at Los Flores Ranch Park? Or, working outside in the nice weather pulls us toward being outside – but playing, not working?

Think about it. Where in the United States will you find more vacation attractions than right here in California? Also, many of those fun destinations are either right here, or within easy driving distance. We have great parks, nearby beaches, a national forest, lakes, museums, ballparks, basketball courts, pools, farmer's markets, movies, concerts, restaurants, and back roads to explore.

Fun Events. Downtown Fridays has returned as a great way to finish off the week. As you leave work on Friday, meet your family for a fun evening of food, drink and entertainment every Friday at Town Center West. Also, the Wine Trolley has returned. It's a great thing to do when your friends from out-of-town come to Santa Maria to beat the heat.

Work hard, play hard. I am happy for our employees, and I encourage you to appreciate your family, and to have a good summer.

It is really fulfilling to see how we all pull together and serve this great community. I am thankful for the teamwork and problem-solving abilities that you bring to make Santa Maria work. As I have said many times, we are fortunate to have a great team here in the City and that we all work together to make a positive difference in the community. Make sure you relax and play and blow off steam, and enjoy a cold glass of refreshment this summer.

Jason