



# April 2021 Pathfinder

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.-Leo Buscaglia

## Teamwork Matters

A message from  
the City Manager

Jason Stilwell



On another positive note, the economy is heating up, partly due to the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. Perhaps the bill's best-known provision is those \$1,400 checks going out to most Americans. But City and County government also are receiving money, albeit with spending strings attached.

The availability of these one-time Federal funds presents a remarkable opportunity to build back and make significant investments in Santa Maria. The City is expected to receive \$40.3 million. This one-time revenue does not end the City's financial challenges but will go a long way to cover costs we experienced due to the pandemic, stop the drawdown of our vital financial reserves, and enable investment in our community.

There is a quick turnaround to spend the funds, to stimulate the local economy. We are receiving details about eligible expenses. Although not the solution to all our financial challenges it is another way for us to feel that more positive days are coming.

*Jason*

We begin this spring season with a positive outlook. There is a lot going on. The COVID-19 vaccinations are well underway, our County may soon advance to the orange tier, and departments are preparing their mid-cycle budget requests.

City employees continue to be eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine due to their status as emergency services workers. Additionally, Santa Barbara County residents, age 16+ have been added to the groups who are eligible. Please click on this link for more information and links to make an appointment online: <https://publichealthsb.org/community-vaccination-clinics/>.

The City encourages employees to sign up for vaccines offered in close proximity to their worksites to minimize the impact on operations; however, should vaccines not be available locally, employees may opt for appointments elsewhere and request Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for travel time in addition to the appointment time.

These clinics through the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department are for Santa Barbara County residents or persons who work in Santa Barbara County. If you enroll and are not a resident or a worker in Santa Barbara County you will be turned away.

I extend my appreciation to our personnel who continue to assist at the vaccination clinics. Together, we are making a difference. Our community has suffered greatly.

Bigger picture, after weeks of decline nationally, the average daily number of new coronavirus infections is increasing. Leading epidemiologists disagree whether this is a fourth wave, or instead if we are seeing the last of the crisis now in its 14th month. More than 187 million vaccines have been administered nationally. The country is on pace to reach 250 million vaccinations by May.