



October 2021 Pathfinder

“She’s not sure all the rules apply to her. In the airline industry we’d say she’s selective about compliance.”

-Chesley Sullenberger

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager

Jason Stilwell



We may be soon able to breathe a tentative sigh of relief, according to researchers studying the trajectory of the pandemic. The Delta surge appears to be peaking, and cases and deaths will likely decline slowly and steadily now through the spring, according to experts.

After a summertime surge of Novel Coronavirus cases, Santa Barbara County’s COVID-19 case rate has been trending downward over the past few weeks. It was also encouraging when, in September, the World Health Organization reported the first substantial decline in new cases globally for more than two months.

We also are seeing students return to school classrooms. The Santa Maria-Bonita School District reopened for in-person instruction on August 12th with health protocols in place.

Fall is around the corner. Send us a note about what Halloween costume you or your children are planning for, and we will list them next month. E-mail **Mark van de Kamp**.

Like you, I want to be optimistic, and have to be cautious because the virus has shown time and again the infection rate can come roaring back. The biggest driver is immunity. Fingers crossed.

Santa Maria remains a great place to live and work. Santa Maria continues to make steady progress to retain and attract businesses, make the community safer for everyone, and improve the quality of life in our beautiful corner of the Central Coast.

We just enjoyed another successful Santa Maria Elks Rodeo and parade. Downtown Fridays continues drawing people downtown. We continue moving forward on our General Plan update.

We need to celebrate the wins. A.T. Still University on September 27th dedicated its Santa Maria campus and welcomed 90 students from all over the country, to its inaugural class of its Central Coast Physician Assistant Program. The City and community are thrilled to welcome this expanded opportunity for higher education. There is demand for skilled medical professionals in our region’s growing health care industry.

Conditions and guidance related to COVID-19 continue to evolve. What remains constant is our unwavering resolve to protect the health and safety of employees and our community while providing excellent services and programs.

Example of teamwork continues to abound each month. I am impressed by staff’s flexibility and resiliency with changing processes. The City has not had a COVID-19 spread in the workplace and that is due to the well-thought out safety plans and diligence of our employees. I appreciate all of your efforts to remain safe and we will get through this healthy, while maintaining the vital services to the community. Keep up the good work so we can have a normal holiday season.

Jason

