



GEM AWARD WINNER

**Going the Extra Mile
October 2017 to March 2018**



Casey Stone

Park Services / Recreation and Parks Department

The initiative of Senior Park Services Officer Casey Stone of the Recreation and Parks Department has greatly aided the City's efforts at dealing with illegal activities by homeless individuals. His work has resulted in the cleanup of more than five encampments around the City in its waterways and open spaces. By removing illegal drug paraphernalia, human waste bio-hazards, and garbage dumped at these encampments, this helps stop the spread of disease and potential contamination of public places. Further, outside of his job description, Mr. Stone helped to write ordinances adopted by the City Council, providing City departments with additional tools to help with those persons experiencing homelessness. He also was a contributor to the development of the recent \$2 million grant the City applied for and received. This grant will help both the City and the Good Samaritan Shelter to deliver various services such as a grant-funded "on call homeless intervention specialist" to those experiencing homelessness.

The City of Santa Maria recognizes outstanding employees through its Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award program. Nominations are accepted twice per year. An Outstanding GEM Recipient is selected quarterly from the nominees. Criteria are: Exhibiting effective leadership on specific assignments; demonstrates positive service to a customer or co-worker; goes "above and beyond" the call of duty; shows special initiative, creativity, teamwork, cost containment efforts and entrepreneurial spirit in providing a high level of customer service; and consistently embracing the City's service standards.