

April 2016

Birthstone: Diamond
Flower: Daisy or Sweet Pea

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



On Saturday, April 16th, I encourage you to join me and some of your fellow City employees, as well as hundreds of other volunteers, for half a day of beautifying our community through Serve Santa Maria 11.

Volunteers will gather at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center to be registered from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., then after a short opening be on their way to work sites by 9:15 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be available as you arrive, courtesy of the All-America City Committee. You'll also be provided a sack lunch for helping out that day.

Twice each year, the City partners with Serve Santa Maria, spearheaded by Pastor Carl Nielsen of Bethel Lutheran Church and the other members of the Serve Santa Maria leadership team, to improve the community in a variety of ways. City staff has identified suitable projects, and with the help of volunteers, fan out across our community.

Each of these events typically see 250 to 400 people involved in beautifying schools, private residences, and City parks. Good advice is to bring shovels, metal rakes, brooms, wheelbarrows (if you have one) and tough gloves, and if it's sunny wear a hat and bring some sunblock.

What would be truly helpful is to choose the project you want to do, and then sign up ahead of the event. It's first come, first served on the assignment of projects. Some projects are getting full, but there are more to pick from. You may contact Pastor **Carl Nielsen** via e-mail at ServeSantaMariaCA@gmail.com or **Mark van de Kamp** at ext. 2372.

This year, there will be about 14 to 16 projects, including projects at four elementary schools: Liberty, Robert Bruce, Sanchez, and Miller. About 12 to 40 volunteers are needed at each school site. At Liberty and Sanchez, volunteers will paint the United States map on the playground, and at Miller will repaint a map previously painted in years past. If you work on one of these paint projects you are advised to wear old paint clothes; supplies will be provided. At Robert Bruce, volunteers are to spruce up the school garden, and weed the garden and spruce up the teacher's lounge area.

There also will be projects at three private residences: one is at the home of a senior citizen who recently died; another is owned by a woman who cares for her mother and sister. These are mostly landscaping and clearing of weeds. Twenty to 30 volunteers at each site are desired.

The Recreation and Parks Department has projects at Pioneer (25 to 50 volunteers), Preisker (25-75), Jim May (10-15), and Perlman (15-25) parks, mostly spreading bark, but also planting ground cover at Perlman. Bring wheelbarrows (if you have them), rakes, shovels, gloves, and 5-gallon buckets). A team of 10 to 20 volunteers is needed to plant ground cover in bare spots at the Paul Nelson Pool. Ten to 15 volunteers are also needed to put in drought-tolerant plants at the Cuyama branch library.

We all should be grateful for what we have and for what the City has done for us as employees. Now is your opportunity to help give back and help make a difference in the community. So if you're available to help out on Saturday morning, April 16th, I would encourage you to join us and help beautify our community.

Rick