

August 2016

Birthstone: Peridot, Sardonyx, or Sapphire
Flower: Gladiolus or Poppy

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon



On Saturday, August 27th, I encourage you to join some of your fellow City employees, as well as hundreds of other volunteers, for a couple of hours of beautifying our community and making it a better place to be, through Serve Santa Maria 12. Let's be the ones who are part of the solution and show City pride.

Volunteers will gather at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center to be registered from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., then 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 and some bottled water for helping out that day and making a difference.

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, we will fan out across our community.

Each of these events typically see a couple hundred 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. Three school projects are 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 month, there will be 15 projects, including five parks, one litter cleanup location to be determined three residences, and projects at these schools: Bonita Elementary, Arellanes Elementary, Arellanes Junior High, Rice Elementary, and Fairlawn Elementary. About six to 10 volunteers are needed at each school site.

There will be projects at three private residences. One home needs 25 to 35 volunteers to clean up a backyard and move stuff into a Dumpster. Another home needs four to six people who have tool and can lay outdoor carpet on a mobile home patio and steps. We need an installer. The third residence project is full.



The Recreation and Parks Department has projects at Preisker Park (30 to 50 volunteers) to spread bark, recut pathways and spread decomposed granite on walkways, repair missing fence rails, and build tree wells; Perlman Park (30 to 40); Graffiti removal under the Santa Maria River Highway 101 Bridge (20 to 30); refresh landscaping by Kunst Jr. High School (20 to 30); and refresh landscaping by Taylor School (30 to 40).

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, August 27th, I would encourage you to come on down and help beautify our community.

Rick