

April 2014

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 26, I encourage you to join me, along with hundreds of other volunteers, for half a day in beautifying our community through Serve Santa Maria VII. Volunteers will gather at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center to be registered from 8:30 a.m. 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. Lunch will be provided by the Santa Maria Rescue Mission.**

Each year, the City partners with Pastor Carl Nielsen of Bethel Lutheran Church, to improve the community in a variety of ways. City staff identify suitable projects, and with the help of volunteers, fan out across our community. This time around, we have projects from the Recreation and Parks Department and from the school districts. We have a special project at a home and some mobile home repairs for guys and gals who have the tools and like doing home makeovers. Serve Santa Maria will cover all costs of the repairs.

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 selection. Four projects are full, but there are plenty more to pick from.

We need a minimum of 200 people to complete all of the projects on the list. You may contact Pastor Carl Nielsen via e-mail at [carlnielsennews@bethelsantamaria.org](mailto:carlnielsennews@bethelsantamaria.org) or Mark van de Kamp at ext. 372.

This is the first time that Serve Santa Maria is branching out to the local schools. So, perhaps if you

are a parent and have kids in schools, this would be an ideal way to be true to your school and help give back to the community.

This year's projects include spreading wood chips for weed control and water conservation at Preisker Park; cleaning, painting and adding reflective tape to traffic barricades used for community events; spreading and leveling rock dust on walking trails at Preisker Park and at the Minami Center; planting native grasses at the parking lot of the Elwin Mussell Senior Center; assembling 12 picnic tables, and weed control at Pioneer Park; and, landscape improvements at Delta High School, Pioneer Valley High School, and Righetti High School.

The Serve Santa Maria effort began in 2010 when Pastor Nielsen recruited numerous volunteers from local churches to perform service projects. They painted over 54 graffiti-marked bridge columns on the Highway 101 Santa Maria River Bridge.

Since then, the project has performed cleanups at City parks, at senior mobile home parks, at The Salvation Army, and at the homes of residents who lack the financial resources to perform projects to comply with City codes.

So if you're available on Saturday morning, April 26, I would encourage you to come out and help make a difference in our community. Funding for the event has been provided by the Santa Barbara Foundation, Thrivent Financial, Pepsi, the Rescue Mission, and Home Depot. We are very grateful for their support.

*Rick*