

April 2017

Birthstone: Diamond
Flower: Daisy or Sweet Pea

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



A few words from your City Manager

Rick Haydon



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. On Saturday, April 29th, I encourage you to join some of your fellow City employees, and hundreds of other volunteers, for half a day of beautifying our community through Serve Santa Maria 13.

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, courtesy of The Salvation Army.

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 (like yourself), great things will be accomplished.

I encourage you to lend a helping hand and if you do, what would be truly helpful is to choose the project you want to do ahead of the event, and sign up for it. Some projects are getting full, but there are many more to pick from. You may contact Pastor **Carl Nielsen** via e-mail at ServeSantaMariaCA@gmail.com or **Mark van de Kamp**, in my office, at extension 2372.

Each of these events typically see hundreds of peo-

ple 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.

This time, there will be 10 projects. The most ambitious is serving residents in an entire neighborhood, on three streets in the northwest quadrant: North Benwiley Avenue, North Oakley Avenue, and North Mary Drive. This beautification project will mow grass, edge sidewalks, trim shrubbery, paint fences, and repair screens. Organizers are passing out flyers to neighbors, and many residents want to help.

For those artistically inclined volunteers, you can paint a large map of the United States on school playgrounds at one of four elementary schools: Blochman, Nightingale, Dunlap, and Adam. There also is a request to paint a map on the church grounds of Iglesia de Dios el Cuerpo de Cristo, located at 224 N. Benwiley Avenue.

Our Recreation and Parks Department has four projects. At Preisker Park, 330 Hidden Pines Way (we need 30 to 60 volunteers), mostly spreading wood chips and planting trees to replace redwoods that had to be removed; Pioneer Park, 1150 W. Foster Road (30-35 volunteers are needed), to apply stain to about 90 picnic tables. Stain and brushes will be provided by the City but you may want to wear old clothes; and Perlman Park, corner of Main and Broadway (10-12 volunteers are needed), to plant the rose bed and replace plants. Also, graffiti removal under the Santa Maria River Bridge (work for about 25-30 volunteers). For the river bridge project, park at Preisker Park and walk down beneath the bridge. The City will provide the paint. Wear old clothes.

So if you're available to help out on Saturday morning, April 29th, I would encourage you to help beautify our community.

Rick