

Officials, Citizens Gather for Cleanup

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REDLANDS - City officials, police brass and regular, everyday Redlanders came out to clean up their town on Saturday.

Volunteer and church groups joined city employees for a community-wide cleanup and celebrated with a barbecue afterwards.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, the volunteers gathered at Sylvan Park for a safety briefing. The city provided vests, gloves and trash bags before sending the volunteers out into the streets of Redlands to pick up trash.

"It's important to come together for the community and improve our neighborhoods," said Councilman Pete Aguilar, who picked up trash with Redlands Police Capt. Tom Fitzmaurice.

Aguilar said the heads of several city departments were on hand to help out with the cleanup, along with members of the community who walked up and decided to get involved.



Redlands Boys & Girls Club Teem Director Sam Lopez, Marlene Nava, 16, and Joey Arviso, 14, pick up trash as a part of the community-wide cleanup on Saturday. (Jesse B. Gill/Redlands Daily Facts)

Redlands Boys & Girls Club Teem Director Sam Lopez supervised a group of kids involved in the club's Keystone Leadership Club as they spent their Saturday morning walking through Redlands neighborhoods picking up trash.

"We all grew up here," Lopez said. "We just want to see Redlands cleaner."

When the cleanup effort wrapped up at about 11 a.m., the participants were invited to gather at a barbecue at Sylvan Park, where the city acknowledged and celebrated their service to the community.

"If you're going to ask the community to come out and help, you have to make a partnership out of it," Fitzmaurice said.

The barbecue also served to inform the public about the city's new Adopt-a-Street program. The program is modeled after Adopt-a-Street programs in other communities, according to city spokesman Carl Baker.

The program allows organizations, businesses and families to adopt sections of streets in Redlands for cleanup on a quarterly basis. In exchange for keeping their sections clear of debris, the adopters will be recognized with signs along their adopted sections of roadway and on the city Web site.

Baker said the costs of the program are estimated to be around \$3,000 per year for signs and materials provided to the volunteer groups.

According to Rick Cross, operations manager for the city's Quality of Life Department, nine contracts have been signed by businesses and organizations for the Adopt-a-Street program.

Cross said the organizations agree to take care of the sections of roadway for two years by signing the contracts.

Longtime Redlands accounting firm Soren, McAdam, Christenson LLC, has signed a contract to take care of a section of Redlands Boulevard as a part of the program. Bud Reynolds, an operations manager for the firm, said the Adopt-a-Street program was a way for the company to take care of the city they have been based in for more than 25 years.

"It's a way to give back to the community," Reynolds said.