

In Search of Volunteers

James McElvain, Canyon Lake Chief of Police

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." This is so true, yet so frequently forgotten. I understand that between our families, work, and other commitments, it is difficult to find more time to get involved in our communities. Many of us go about our daily lives expecting others to take care of those things that matter so much to us as a society. There tends to be a mindset that this responsibility lies with "someone," yet we are not sure who that person is. So often, we say, "When is someone going to do something about ...?" I'm sure you can fill in the rest of the sentence. The interesting thing is each and every one of us is "someone." Each of us possesses the influence and power to make a difference where we live; we just need to get involved. Easier said than done, right? Well, here is an opportunity for you to get involved.

Right now, the Canyon Lake Police Department has two volunteers. For a community this size, this seems a little low to me. My guess is that many of you do not know this program exists. As a volunteer with the police department, you could be called upon for such things as assisting with traffic control, special events such as community parades and DUI/safety checkpoints, transporting police vehicles for maintenance, searching for missing persons, and conducting vacation home checks. Certainly, as a volunteer, we would also encourage you to ride-along with our officers as a means to further community relations. Such involvement is very flexible and would only take a few hours of your time during the week. In fact, many of the events are scheduled well in advance so you could plan ahead of time.

As a public servant for the past 22 years, and a Rotarian for three years, I have personally found no greater reward than through volunteer service. Despite a very busy schedule, I find it to be rather peaceful when I volunteer. It certainly gives me a sense of grounding, and the "life" Winston Churchill spoke of. Giving back, getting connected, being "someone" can be a tremendous feeling, and you can be a part of this. If you are interested, you are encouraged to contact Deputy Steve Sanderson at (951)244-2955.

Canyon Lake Police Department staff and I look forward to the opportunity of working with you.