



Volume Three

# Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael  
Volunteer Program

[www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org](http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org)

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August 2011

All the news, events, accomplishments, and special people in volunteerism that keep the City of San Rafael Volunteer Program playing such a vital role in our community.

## August 27<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Parks and Paths Service Days

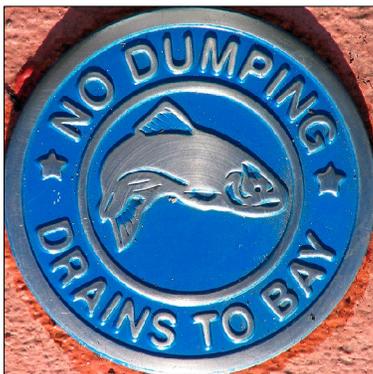
The next 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Parks and Paths Service event will be held at Mahon Creek and Path in San Rafael on August 27. The day will include litter cleanup, weeding, some mulching, pruning of overgrown brush and removal of graffiti from the poles and fences. There will also be a short presentation about the creek and its ecosystem, which will add educational value to the event. This is a prime spring cleaning day for the City so come join us on the path! To volunteer, sign up at [www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org](http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org).



## Voice of a Volunteer: Matthew Amis

My name is Matthew Amis and I have been a volunteer with the City of San Rafael and San Rafael City Hall since 2004 as a Concierge. I really enjoy working with all the city staff and assisting residents who use the city services. At times I feel like a counselor assisting the clients with their problems.

I think volunteering helps a person improve their work, social and leadership skills and is a good way to tackle community issues that one may feel passionate about. I am a history buff, which is what drew me to volunteer with the City of San Rafael. I like learning about city government, as well as learning about the City's past history. I have volunteered at many non profits while I was in college and the City of San Rafael is my favorite assignment.



## Conservation Corps Youth Help with Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Throughout the months of July and August, kids from Conservation Corps North Bay's Project Regeneration and MCSTOPPP will install storm drain medallions throughout San Rafael. This is a vital project because these "Drains to Bay" medallions alert the public that what goes down a storm drain ends up in the Bay. With knowledge of these consequences, the amount of toxic materials and trash in San Francisco Bay can be substantially reduced, and thanks to this program, less people dump their oil or paint in storm drains. Since 2008, close to 100 volunteers have participated, installing thousands of storm drain medallions throughout San Rafael. Thanks to everyone participating this year!

## Volunteer Coordinator Steps into Sustainability Role

This month, Cory Bytof takes over as the new Sustainability Coordinator for the City of San Rafael, in addition to his Volunteer Coordinator duties. After 13 years, Cory will be leaving Falkirk Cultural Center and will step into an oversight role for the Office of the City Manager to assist with integration of the City's environmental

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sustainability programs into department work plans. Most of the work will include implementation of the City's Climate Change Action Plan, addressing such issues as energy conservation, waste reduction and diversion, and planning to reduce San Rafael's carbon footprint. Check out our related Featured Opportunity.

### [Featured Volunteer Opportunities](#)

The City of San Rafael is looking for stalwart, committed volunteers to help with some key projects underway with regard to the Sustainability Program. If you have a penchant for research, data gathering and environmental sustainability, please contact us to learn more about how to support the City's Climate Change Action Plan.

### [Volunteer Disaster Preparedness Trainers Needed](#)

The City is looking for volunteers that would like to work towards our efforts of disaster preparedness. Help us bring this free 2-hour Get Ready household disaster preparedness training to our community. The City's Office of Emergency Services is hosting a train-the-trainer session on Thursday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00- 9:00 p.m. You will learn all about the curriculum, hot topics, how to engage groups, and how fun the training is. If you have more questions or are interested in becoming a trainer please call 458-5002.



### [Town Hall Meeting August 11 to Give Input on New Police Chief](#)

A Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 6 pm at Falkirk Cultural Center to solicit community input on the qualities and characteristics desired in the next City of San Rafael Police Chief. More information can be found on the City's web site: [www.CityofSanRafael.org](http://www.CityofSanRafael.org).

### [Fun and Games to Save the Bay](#)

Want to have some fun and help save our Bay, too? Then log on to [www.safesfbay.org](http://www.safesfbay.org) and take the five question trivia quiz. For each person who plays, \$1.00 is donated to Save the Bay and one lucky player has the chance to win an iPad! Plus, the Bay Area city that has the most players gets a chance to win a community Happy Hour. Join San Rafael Clean in trying to make San Rafael the most participating city!

### [Coming Up](#)

**September 17** is Coastal Cleanup Day. Contact us if you would like to host a cleanup location in San Rafael or want to come out and volunteer!

**September 24** is the next 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Parks and Paths Service Day in the walkway easements surrounding Terra Linda Community Center in the Santa Margarita Neighborhood.

**October 22** is Make a Difference Day and our final 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays event for the year.



### [Saying Farewell](#)

Sadly, we'll be losing our Writer and Editor in Chief for the Volunteer Voice. After 12 years on the job, Rosella Rhine will be retiring from her position at the Volunteer Program.

Rosella started the Volunteer Program newsletter and has contributed so much to it over the years, garnering consistently positive feedback and appreciation. She has been a reporter, writer, and public relations professional and we have been very fortunate to have her here. In addition, Rosella has one published book (*Life is a Piñata*) and another in the works. Rosella will be heading to Italy for a few months and then will find a new niche in the world. We are looking forward to seeing her again and reading her new book!

Join us on [Facebook](#), and thanks for being a contributing member of the community!