



Volume Four

Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael
Volunteer Program

www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org

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Did you know? In 2011, 2,661 volunteers donated 57,552 hours of service to the City - a value of \$1.3 million dollars!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Jackie Dema, City Hall Concierge

Born in Bombay, India, with her childhood spent in England and Canada, Jackie Dema eventually settled in Marin County in 1965. Here she raised a son and daughter, served as executive secretary at various banking institutions, and in the late 1990's, retired from the work force.

Not one to sit around, Jackie, who while living in England competed in ballroom dancing, indulges her passion for the dance by volunteering at monthly dances for senior citizens, including San Rafael's Goldenaires, as well as helping groups in the East Bay. When she isn't kicking up her heels dancing, she volunteers one day a week with Guide Dogs for the Blind, and for the past eighteen months has been a welcoming face on Thursday afternoons as a volunteer Concierge at the City of San Rafael City Hall.

According to Jackie, "I like being useful when I can help the staff with various chores, and, of course, I love meeting the different people who visit City Hall. Thanks to Cory (Bytof, Volunteer Coordinator), I've even been brought into the 21st century of the computer world."

Generous volunteers like Jackie Dema, whose enthusiasm and smile present a warm welcome to visitors, help make our community a better place.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Lt. Dan Fink, SRPD Volunteer Recruiter and Tweeter Extraordinaire



San Rafael Police Lieutenant Dan Fink, recruits, checks backgrounds and manages Police Department volunteers. Born in Long Beach, CA, he grew up in Lake Arrowhead, and then attended Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park where he continues to live with his wife and three dogs.

Always looking for ways to let people know what is going on in the City, Dan, along with a growing number of police and fire agency staff throughout the Country, turned to social networking in March 2009 as a means of reaching out to the community. By encouraging other Tweeters to respond, he has been able to put a friendly face on City law enforcement while garnering interest in the Citizen's Police Academy. Earlier this year, he visited the White House after applying to join a select group of Twitter users for a "live tweet" marking the arrival of British Prime Minister David Cameron to the White House's south lawn.

Promoted to Lieutenant in 2009, Dan's duties include supervising field training and reserves, as well as his on-going involvement with all aspects of the many stalwart and long-term police department volunteers. Dan is appreciated for his no-nonsense, humorous and friendly approach. His enthusiasm and devotion to PD volunteers is matched only by his passion for Tweeting under the handle @SanRafaelPolice.

PAID INTERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Help rollout the Resilient Neighborhoods and Food-to-Energy Programs in the community through a paid internship with AmeriCorps. For a full description of the Zero Waste Coordinator Assistant position visit the [Climate Corps web site](#).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Earth Day

Joining hundreds of other volunteers throughout the county on April 21, 47 adults and 12 youth volunteers put in 177 hours cleaning up litter and invasive weeds at six locations in San Rafael, helping to preserve our beautiful and unique environment. Partners included the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin, GPNA, Safe Passage Along Lucas Valley Road, Autodesk, Gallinas Creek Watershed Council, Vista Marin HOA, and MCSTOPPP. The Boy Scouts at Mahon Path removed 2 dumpsters worth of invasive plants and cut down eight invasive Acacia tree clumps. This was another successful partnership with My Earth Day Marin

towards making Earth Day a signature annual spring service day in Marin. Thanks to everyone for helping make this such a wonderful day!

Mormon Helping Hands

For the third year in a row, San Rafael has benefited from a Mormon Helping Hands Day. In late April, 31 adults and 17 youth volunteers from the Church of Latter Day Saints put in 144 hours installing several yards of playground sand in Sun Valley Park and weeding the area. Thanks to the church for their ongoing contribution to the community.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Falkirk Cultural Center

Assist your local cultural center in a redesign of their website. Knowledge of online web tools a must.

Library Internet & Computer Tutors

Help your San Rafael community improve computer literacy by tutoring San Rafael residents in basic word processing and spreadsheet management, internet searches, web-based email programs, online job-hunting and more. If you have a solid PC knowledge, good people skills, patience, and a penchant for teaching, this might be the job for you!

City Hall Concierge Greeter

Friendly and good communicators needed to assist visitors to City Hall with directions to City departments, local attractions, and other government entities; and to help departmental staff with small clerical projects. Shifts are 3 hours per week in a casual, supportive atmosphere.

To learn more or sign up online, please visit www.sanrafaelvolunteer.org

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Lose that Ugly Carbon Weight. Join Resilient Neighborhoods' FREE Pilot Program and help us lose half a million lbs!

You can save money on utility bills and qualify for thousands of \$\$ of rebates from Energy Upgrade California, strengthen relationships with your neighbors, build a more sustainable local economy, be better prepared in an emergency, and help solve global environmental problems. Its fun, easy, and a great way to build community.

To learn more, visit resilientneighborhoods.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

These are great opportunities to volunteer, learn about our outdoor spaces, and even get community service hours.

August 25 - Parks Service Day

September 22- Parks Service Day

September 15 - Coastal Cleanup Day

October 27 - Make a Difference Day

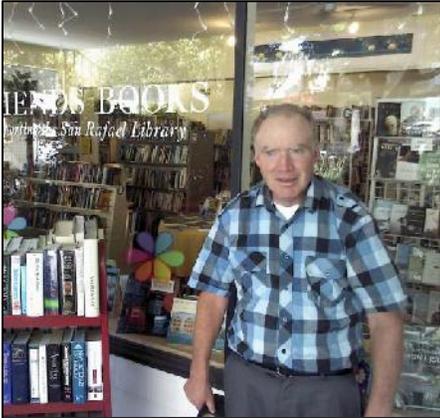
To learn more, visit <http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org/beautification-days.aspx>

Read more [online](#) and Like us on [Facebook](#)

Special thanks to contributing writers Rona Schmidt and Rosella Rhine

On-line Features

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Ron Shaiken, Library*



Ron helps the Friends of the San Rafael Library both at their shop, Friends Books, at 1016 C Street and in their 'annex', a trailer at the end of the library's parking lot, where donations are sorted to await their moment in the shop. Six days a week Ron is there, cheerfully helping volunteers load boxes into cars to move them to the shop and helping donors get boxes and bags out of their cars. He always says he "didn't 'do nuthin'" and that it's the "highest honor" to help. He makes a hard job look easier and, definitely, much more fun.

Kudos to our Volunteer Ron!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: *Juan Carlos Sorto and Ross Morrison, Community Services*

Ross and Juan Carlos are capacity-builders. They leverage the power of many in their daily efforts to keep the community centers kept clean, well-maintained, and vibrant. Together they coordinate approximately 150 volunteers working off traffic violations to the tune of over 6,000 hours each year. They've become master volunteer coordinators, and find efficient ways to oversee short-term workers, and get a huge return for their time. Next time you visit one of our well-kept community centers, consider all the things they enable these workers to do, from cleaning floors, classrooms and fountains, to removing litter and weeds from the surrounding parks and gardens. Thanks to our stellar staff at Community Services!



GIFT OF LOVE:

Once again the City was the recipient of several dozen volunteers from 19 Marin churches for the annual Gift of Love service day. This year volunteers re-landscaped Fire Station #3, gardened and mulched at Falkirk, and did major litter cleanup at the downtown San Rafael Park and Ride Lots. Over 200 hours of service was contributed in one day! (photo: volunteers at Fire Station #3)



IN MEMORIAM: *Mary Mick*

Sadly, our long-time volunteer and retired staff member Mary Mick passed away in April of natural causes. She was a delight to everyone at City Hall, and people were constantly coming in and recognizing her from all her years working with the City in the Police and Public Works departments. She'll be sorely missed.

