



Volume Six

Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael Volunteer Program

www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org

(415) 485-3407



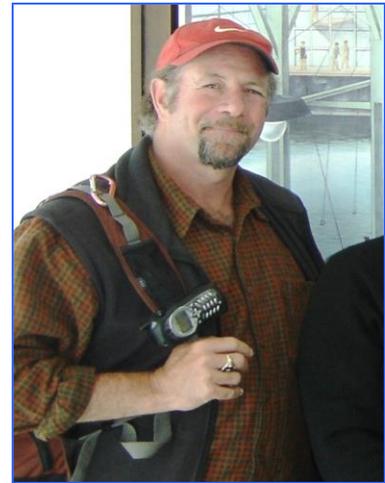
June 2013

In 2012 1,873 volunteers contributed 45,147 hours to the City of San Rafael, representing over \$1 million in in-kind contributions!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: *Brian Auger, Events Coordinator*

An enthusiastic promoter of the City of San Rafael, Brian is the City's one-stop shopping liaison for events in the downtown and Canal areas. He coordinates events such as the Classic Car Parade, Farmer's Market and bike races. Working with event sponsors, he simplifies the process by coordinating with all necessary city departments such as public works, fire, police and business licenses. He then participates in the marketing, and promotion of the event. And finally, he then enhances city support at the actual event including set-up, pedestrian traffic control, providing information and keeping the area clean. His environmental consciousness shows as he focuses on recycling and minimizing the impact on each setting.

A department of one, Brian does all this work with the help of volunteers. He is known for ensuring that volunteers enjoy their service and his generosity in showing his appreciation. Before joining the City, he worked for Bill Graham Presents for 25 years and brought over the "event family" spirit with him. His first Rock & Roll supervisory job was creating and managing the BGP Ushers (Volunteer) program at Winterland, the Warfield, D.O.G.'s (Day on the Greens), Cal Expo, Greek Theatre, Shoreline Amphitheater and several other large venues. He says that having just one volunteer work with him at an event makes a huge difference. He enjoys getting to know the volunteers since they are representatives who come from the community and have valid, creative opinions of the City. Brian believes that "...there is always something to learn from everyone."



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Libby McQuiston, San Rafael Clean (and more) Volunteer*



"Renegade Trash Picker" as she characterizes herself, Libby McQuiston has been a key player and creative force in helping to keep our streets clean. She got her start in litter on the beach in San Francisco, picking up trash as she walked her dog. Eventually a ranger there gave her a badge, bags and equipment and, the rest is history! On moving to San Rafael, she contacted Public Works, they referred her to Cory Bytof, our Volunteer Coordinator, and he introduced her to San Rafael Clean. The group, supported by businesses and individuals, does clean-ups throughout the City. Most recently, they initiated a pilot campaign to collect and recycle the numerous toxic cigarette butts that litter our streets. A year ago, they initiated a campaign to collect and recycle the numerous toxic cigarette butts that litter our streets. Following this successful pilot, a parking meter sculpture was installed in May on the City Plaza. The meter is also a cigarette litter receptacle.

Five years ago, Libby adopted the three public Park and Ride lots under the freeway from Mission to 3rd Street. Working in collaboration with

Caltrans, she has a permit to do the work and recruits volunteers to help with clean up at least eight times a year. She encourages others interested in making a difference to just adopt an area near your home—a storm drain, or a street—and keep it clean.

Although she works down in the weeds, she has a big picture view and spends time researching and looking for ways to mitigate these problems so the litter never hits the ground. She states she enjoys creating and seeing change, and this is evident in all the work she has done in San Rafael. Thank you Libby for your creativity and hard work!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Canal Garden Gets a Festive (and Clean) Sendoff

Volunteers with the Canal Alliance, Climate Corps Bay Area, and Bay Area Community Resources cleaned up litter, uprooted invasive broom, and helped tidy the area around the new Canal Community Garden to prepare for the official opening of the garden later in the day on March 30. A total of 31 volunteers brought their enthusiasm and energy to the task, contributing over 80 hours to make the area sparkle for the big party! They joined in with a crowd of garden partners and supporters to enjoy the festivities and food afterwards. Stop by sometime and see the fruit and vegetables grow! To find out more: <http://www.canalalliance.org/>.



New Life for the Falkirk Greenhouse

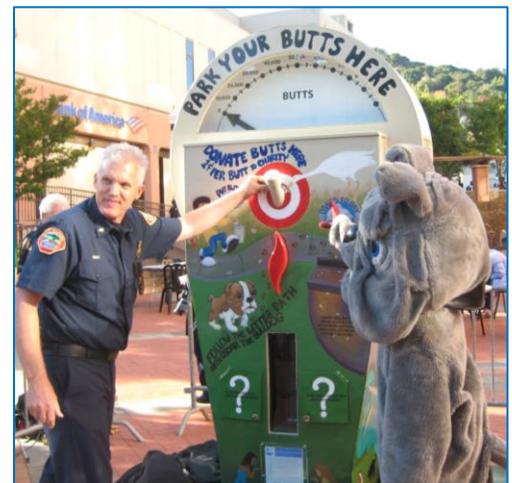


The year got off to a busy start with the restoration of the Victorian-style greenhouse at the Falkirk Center, a hub of Marin Master Gardener activities. Last renovated in 1980, the building was lovingly renewed with new wood and a bright new paint job, not to mention the cleaning and replacement of dozens of glass panels. Volunteer carpenters Don Chapman and Bill Londeree headed up this major effort that racked up thousands of volunteer hours from the Master Gardeners and other community volunteers. The restored greenhouse is now better able to fulfill its role as the center of operations for two annual plant sales and maintenance of the Falkirk demonstration gardens. Thank you, Master Gardeners, for your dedication and hard work! For more about MMG, visit: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/>. To read an expanded article, visit

<http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org/news-home-page.aspx>.

The Cigarette Eater Meter is Here!

On May 30th the San Rafael Clean coalition's newest strategy for getting cigarette litter off the street was unveiled. The cigarette eater meter is a public art and education sculpture designed to look like an oversized parking meter. Covered in a whimsical mural-like painting and sporting the hard facts about cigarette litter, the "meter" is also a receptacle for cigarette butts. For every butt deposited, one cent gets donated to St. Vincent de Paul. The meter will only be around for a limited time, so bring your butts on down and help SRC reach its goal of 100,000 butts and a \$1,000 donation to charity! For more about SRC and its campaign: www.sanrafaelclean.org.



RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM Update from Tamra Peters

The all-volunteer driven Resilient Neighborhoods pilot program goal was to help Marin residents reduce their carbon emissions and build community resiliency to protect against climate-spawned events like wildfires, severe storms, floods, droughts, and disruption in food supplies. Residents are responsible for 60-70% of the County's carbon emissions.

The RN pilot program results exceeded expectations in both carbon reductions and community resilience-building actions. 106 households (270 people) reduced 1,298,859 carbon pounds, beating the 500,000 lb. goal by well over 200%. The average household reduced its carbon emissions by more than 15%.

The process of going through the program with a team of people is the core of its success—behaviors are changed and bonding among team members is created through the simple process of sharing information and experiences to support one another to take the actions. And, of course, Resilient Neighborhoods makes it fun—from the team creating its own name to the final ceremony and team photo! The 2013 program launch is underway. If you are interested in participating, please contact ResilientNeighborhoods@gmail.com or visit ResilientNeighborhoods.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Munson Park Service Project on Saturday, August 10. Help beautify the median in front of Munson Park on the Freitas Parkway by participating in morning sheet mulching project. Join local scouts and other community members as we lay down cardboard and spread mulch on top to keep weeds down, reduce water evaporation, and increase soil health. Find out more about this service project at <http://www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org/beautification-days.aspx>.

The Munson Park project is part of the city's Parks & Paths Service Projects held once a month, April through October. Check out our website to find out what's next! www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org.

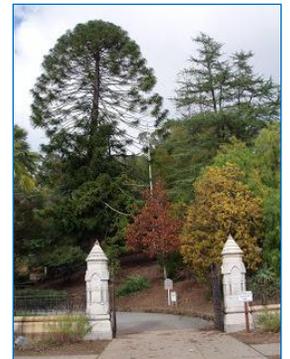


Photo: Chris Pattilo/FASLA

FEATURED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Data/Admin Assistant

San Rafael Fire Department is looking for a volunteer with experience in letter-writing, data tracking, and high-level clerical work that wants to work with the hottest Fire Department in the county. Duties include organizing and keeping track of files and accounts, composing letters, etc. This position may require a background check and requires a minimum one-year commitment.

Community Development Department Information Facilitator

Have experience or training in construction, architecture or city planning? Greet, assist and direct customers at the Community Development Department. The position requires a basic knowledge of computers, municipal permitting, and the permit process in building and zoning. Work two half-days per week at City Hall.

Thank you to: Rona Schmidt, Tamra Peters & Jackie Dema for contributions to this newsletter.

Welcome to the following new volunteers:

Rem O'Donnelley – Volunteer Program

Judy Herman – City Hall Concierge

Erin Dooley – City Hall Concierge

Joan Andrews – Fire Department

Eleni Leibert – Human Resources

Burk Braun – Library

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

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

Did you know? There are up to 2000 chemicals in the non-biodegradable cigarette butts discarded on our streets.