



Volume Three

# Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael  
Volunteer Program

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

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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.

## Volunteer Spotlight – Volunteers Get Special Recognition from City Council

We are shining the spotlight on four volunteers this month, each of which received Resolutions of Appreciation from the San Rafael City Council at their meeting on Monday, June 21. The recipients were: **Matthew Amis**, who has donated thousands of hours as a Concierge Volunteer in the City Hall lobby since 2004 and assists various departments with clerical tasks; **Sharlene Moss**, a vital member of the West End Neighborhood Association Board, who has worked tirelessly for her neighborhood and the city at large as well as being an active member of the CERT program; **Effie Lee**, a twelve year member of the San Rafael Goldenaires organization, who has served countless hours on committees and positions that contribute to the success of this popular club for seniors; and **Joanne Doyle**, a Concierge for the City who also volunteers for the Fire Department, putting together wildfire prevention packets for the Vegetation Management program, which has proven invaluable to San Rafael residents in making their properties fire safe and that meet ordinance requirements. These are only four of the more than 2000 volunteers who contribute over 52,000 hours of time to the City of San Rafael each year, which is estimated at over \$1 million worth of value to the City. **Kudos to all!** And thank you for serving San Rafael.



## Featured Volunteer Opportunities

**City Hall Concierge** - We are looking for a people-oriented person with a smiling face to meet and greet visitors at City Hall. If you like to meet a variety of people and would like do occasional small office assignments for staff, give us a call and sign on to be a Concierge for the City.

**Social Media Intern** - We are also looking for a social media savvy intern to help us get positioned to network more efficiently online. This would be a 1 – 2 day per week position and includes some writing, posting, and educating of Volunteer Program staff.

## Special People – Former Volunteer Interns at White House

As a high school student at San Rafael High, Paul Chong was one of San Rafael's finest volunteers so there was no question that he would go on to be a fine, outstanding college student and United States citizen. He proved us right on both counts when, as a student at Northeastern University, he was given an internship at the White House. After keeping us apprised of his participation in the annual White House egg hunt, we were then informed that he had played a small role in the Health Care Legislation passage. It seems as if Marcelas Owens, the young boy whose mother died due to lack of health care, was scheduled to be with the President for the signing of the bill, but was in need of a shirt and tie before his appearance on TV. Paul to the rescue! He frantically headed out to a department store near the White House, ran in, grabbed the first shirt and tie he could find that would fit the boy, then ran back, getting it to him just in time for his appearance. Then, to everyone's



surprise, the President turned to the boy and said, "Nice shirt and tie." Turns out the outfit Paul had purchased matched what Obama was wearing! Nice to know that Paul is not only smart and enterprising with a great future, he also has the same taste in clothing as our esteemed President. Paul will be interning at the White House this next semester, as well as at the Waste and Fraud Bureau of the Office of the Inspector General.

### **San Rafael Clean Campaign Activities**

The last several months have been busy ones for the San Rafael Clean Campaign beginning on March 27, when cleanups, gardening, planting, nature walks and educational booths were instituted to celebrate Cesar Chavez Day at Davidson Middle School and surrounding neighborhoods. Ninety volunteers worked approximately three hours each with collaboration from the

Conservation Corps North Bay, City of San Rafael Volunteer Program, [CVNL Flex Program](#),



Davidson's Dad Club, Davidson Steel Pan Band, Girl Scout Troop 30681 Dad's & Daughters, [Next Generation](#) and Leo the Litter Lion. Then, on April 24, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated with cleanups at various sites throughout the City, and a final wrap up of the day's events at College of Marin where Earth Day festivities took place and volunteers were recognized. This spring and summer has seen a number of new streets projects as well, thanks to Eagle Scouts, [Project Regeneration](#), [MCSTOPPP](#) and the [West End Neighborhood Association](#).

Over one hundred Scouts, volunteers and neighbors have affixed several hundred "No Dumping - Drains to Bay" medallions on storm drains in Terra Linda, the Canal Neighborhood, downtown and in the West End. Also, at Pickleweed Park, mulching and weeding was undertaken by sixty adults and twenty youth from the Church of Latter Day Saints that totaled 245 hours of labor. In addition, the Terra Linda Rotary Club worked on graffiti removal at Freitas Parkway, and various individuals took it upon themselves to create their own cleanup days. All in all, a very busy and successful spring for volunteerism in San Rafael!

### **Upcoming Activities – A Whole Lot of Planning Going On**

A plan is in the makings with strategies for the next big volunteer project—graffiti removal. Included in the draft is an outline for three strategic facets of the project: Eradication, Enforcement, and Education. In the days ahead, the Short Term program will commence for one to six months, and as more details are available, they can be found on our web site or in our next Newsletter. We have already determined there will be a need for trained volunteers, a graffiti tracking database, an "adopt-a-spot" program and donations of cash for materials, among other necessities. In addition, the Volunteer Program is seeking input for a five year plan for volunteerism at the City. Currently, the Coordinator is gathering input from volunteers in City departments and that are involved in community events. Interested in giving your two cents or helping out? Give us a call!



### **Did You Know?**

Volunteers have coordinated and/or participated in the following at Falkirk: building and greenhouse renovations, fundraising, docent tours, special events, garden development, and planning at this historic jewel. Truly, volunteers are the essence of our community. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve.

**Visit the San Rafael Volunteer Program and the San Rafael Clean Campaign on [Facebook](#).**