



Volunteer Voice

SAVE the DATE: Earth Day, April 26th

See a listing of service projects at myearthdaymarin.org (posted by 3/24).

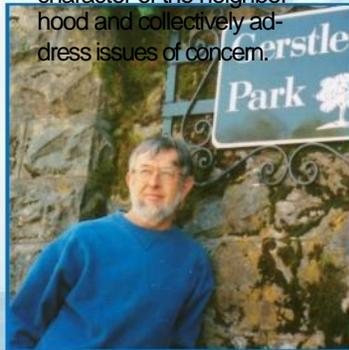
LONGTIMEVOLUNTEERWINS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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LONGTIME San Rafael volunteer Hugo Landecker was recently recognized as the City's Citizen of the Year. A resolution in his honor was presented at the Feb. 18th City Council meeting.

A 45-year resident of San Rafael, Hugo is well known for his community activism and passion for protecting San Rafael neighborhoods. A resident of Gerstle Park, Hugo helped form the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association in 1973 so that neighbors could work in a unified way with

the City to preserve the character of the neighborhood and collectively address issues of concern.



More recently, Hugo has been an active member of the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods.

In the late 1970s, Hugo was instrumental in initiating the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Plan, the first neighborhood plan adopted by the city of San Rafael. Hugo's direct involvement in this effort resulted in zoning and municipal code changes intended to protect the historic character of the neighborhood, among other issues.

As a neighborhood advocate, Hugo has helped resolve many issues that have surfaced in the community over the years. His most recent efforts have focused on addressing

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PARKS&PATHSSERVICEPROJECTRENEWS FALKIRKGARDENS

LOTS OF SWEAT and elbow grease was involved in Make a Difference Day, which brought the 2013 season of service to our City's parks and pathways to a close last October. Marin Master Gardeners hosted the project at the beautiful Falkirk gardens. Volunteers from Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the

North Bay came out in



Our mission is to create a bridge between the City, the community, and volunteers

force along with San Rafael Chamber of Commerce members and other volunteers. Both youth and adults spent the morning moving heavy loads of gravel from the greenhouse to a new succulent bed and sprucing up the beds, capping a wonderful eight-month season of service hosted by the Public



Works Department.

in order to enhance the
quality of life in San Rafael.

CURATOR CREATES VITAL CENTER FOR ART AT FALKIRK

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MANY VISITORS enjoy the beautiful setting of the Falkirk Cultural Center, but some may be surprised to find a bounty of ever-changing art exhibits inside the stately historic rooms. The center is a lively venue for art largely because of the efforts of curator Beth Goldberg, who organizes exhibits at the center in all styles and media.

In her role as curator since 1997 Beth does whatever is needed to make shows a success. She organizes group exhibits for groups such as Fiber Dimensions and the California Society of Printmakers, in addition to juried shows in the spring and fall. Volunteers are crucial to the success of exhibits and other Falkirk activities.

A Marin native, Beth

grew up in Larkspur and loves Marin. Her favorite place is west Marin because it is so untouched. Beth enjoys San Rafael, where she has resided since the 90s, because it feels like a "real" city. Beth has a 24-year-old son whose work involves political advertising and campaign strategy in Washington, D.C.

Beth loves her job. "I enjoy the sense of being in a historic site in this beautiful setting. I feel fortunate to share the history of this house with others, as well as offer local artists the opportunity to show their work in our galleries."

Special memories of Falkirk include Beth's first day on the job in 1997. "I was getting situated and the director asked me to come down and help move chairs,

as the boy scouts from Falkirk, Scotland, came by for a visit. Falkirk is San Rafael's sister city, as Robert Dollar was born there."

Beth's favorite art show at Falkirk, The Food Show, featured "a small table with a clear top, embedded with breakfast cereals. There were a lot of fun pieces in that show," she said.

In her work at Falkirk, Beth gets a lot of help from volunteers. She is very appreciative of the Cultural Affairs Service League, which puts on the annual Dickens Christmas celebration among other events. "They have from Falkirk's inception

as a cultural center been a backbone behind everything."

Other valued volunteers include the Marin Master Gardeners, who maintain the beautiful gardens and greenhouse, and those helping at receptions and other events at the Center.

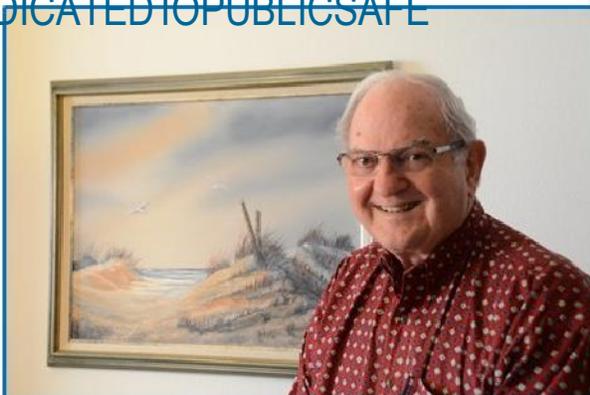


Photo: Rem

DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY

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Photo: Rem



WOULD YOU like to be well known in the Police Department? Most people would not! But one rather famous person in the department—Emil Bettini—is known only in the best way. Many officers hold Emil, one of the Department's longest-serving volunteers before "retiring" late last year, in the highest regard. Last December the chipper 85-year-old received a plaque from the City Council and former Mayor Al Boro recognizing his more than 26 years and 15,000 hours of contri-

butions to the San Rafael Police Department. This incredible achievement amounts to nearly eight years of fulltime work!

Bettini's parents came from the Tuscany region of northern Italy and settled in San Rafael. Emil was born in the family house on Brookdale Avenue and graduated from San Rafael High School in 1946. He served four years in the US Air Force in Japan during the Korean War. Upon his return to San Rafael he returned to Bianco

"I'm happy to have done my duty for the city of San Rafael."

—Emil Bettini

DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY *(from p. 2)*

Cadillac, where he worked during high school, and eventually became a co-owner.

After retiring at the age of 53 after 40 years in the car business, Emil read a story in the Marin IJ about a new crime prevention group. He went on to become the recruiting and scheduling coordinator for the PD's volunteers, who regularly log over 5,000 hours annually. The various citizen volunteer programs he oversaw included the "Are you OK?" program, subpoena services, vacation

home checks, Camp Chance, Neighborhood Watch, and others.

Emil is proud of having formed neighborhood watch groups in 85 San Rafael neighborhoods. "When someone would call the police asking to form a neighborhood watch group, they would send me." He left his mark in many places, quite literally, because he "was instrumental in getting the neighborhood watch signs put up." He hoped the signs would deter crime by showing burglars that they were "in the wrong place."

Bettini was married for 43 years to his wife Genie and has three children, Mark and Christopher, both residents of San Rafael, and Carol, who lives in Tiburon.

In addition to volunteering, Emil also loves to paint. After retiring, he took an oil painting class at the College of Marin. With no previous painting experience, Emil spent every Friday for a year learning to paint from scratch. Now an award-winning painter, Emil takes inspiration for many of his paintings from photos in calendars and phone books.

Bettini is proud to have been a volunteer and to have helped so many. "I'm happy to have done my duty for the City of San Rafael."

Thank you!

**Rem O'Donnelly
& Sally Pryce**
for contributions
to this newsletter.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR *(from p. 1)*

homelessness. Hugo formed the "San Rafael Group," a discussion group made up of residents and Downtown merchants that helps the City address homelessness. He also served on a homelessness subcommittee for the City.

Hugo is an enthusiastic and active protector of open space lands bordering Gerstle Park neighborhood. Over the past 20 years, Hugo has spent countless hours removing brush and clearing trails in City-owned open space, often with the help of other volunteers.

Hugo is also well known for his passion for historic preservation. He formed the "San Rafael Heritage Group," a discussion group

comprised of residents devoted to historic preservation in San Rafael.

The Volunteer Program congratulates Hugo and thanks him for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the City.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Looking for that perfect get-up-and-go activity on Saturday morning?

Join the go-getters at the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce for their monthly cleanup! Takes place at the Southbound 101 exit, 4th Saturday morning of every month. **More information:** www.srchamber.com.

APASSIONFORVOLUNTEERISM

A SELF-DESCRIBED "library junkie," Arlene Sukolsky reads two to three books a week and loves the Library. Arlene's passion for the Library led her to become a San Rafael Library Trustee for two years. But Arlene's passion was not confined to the Library. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Pickleweed Advisory Board of the Albert J. Boro Community Center from 2005-2013. Upon moving to Petaluma in October of last year, Arlene "retired" from her City volunteer work and was honored by the City Council with a resolution that recognized her significant contributions.

Arlene grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in 1964 moved to California, where she lived on a houseboat in Sausalito for 30 years before moving to San Rafael. Her work as a

high-level administrator gave her many skills as a volunteer. Arlene's hobbies include reading, art, travel, and volunteering. "Volunteering is almost like a hobby, it is so pervasive in my life," she said.



As a Library Trustee, Arlene shared her enthusiasm for the Library with other Trustees: "I think what I did for the Board was bring a sense of excitement and gratification...a sense that what they did was incredibly important."

Arlene was also a leader

on the Pickleweed Advisory Board. After a year, she became the chairperson. At monthly meetings, Arlene helped excite others about board tasks, which focused on evaluating proposals for classes and activities. "Once we got up and running, there was a sense of purpose that pervaded the Board. People were so gratified to be a part of it." She says, "There's no excuse for the Board to be bored."

Early on, Arlene found a novel way to convey what was happening at the Community Center to the City Council. She said, "Let's make a movie!" The video team went from class to class asking participants what they liked about the Center." In the end, "we had this beautiful little story of parents and kids. Now making a videotaped annual report to the City is institutionalized," she said.

Arlene enjoyed her work with the Board and city staff. She says of Steve Mason, Supervisor of the Community Center, "Steve is always there, always calm, always involved. I think he is an extraordinarily effective director."

San Rafael will miss Arlene and her many contributions, but no doubt she will make her mark in her new home town of Petaluma!



City of San Rafael Volunteer Program

1313 Fifth Avenue P.O.
Box 151560
San Rafael, CA 94915-1560

Phone: 415-485-3071

Fax: 415-485-3175

E-mail: carla.koop@cityofsanrafael.org

www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org

Newsletter Editor: Carla Koop

RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS UPDATE from Diana Lee

MEET THE Fettugreenie Carbonadas! This scrumptiously EcoTeam team spent several weeks learning practical actions on how to live more lightly on our planet, how to reduce bills and water usage, and how to make communities more resilient through the Resilient Neighborhoods (RN) Program.

The Fettugreenie Carbonadas were a team of City of San Rafael employees that met over lunch (but, you probably knew that just from their name). By the end of RN they had reduced, or pledged to reduce within a year, 70,808 pounds of Carbon

emissions and earned 40,500 community resilience points.

Now in its second year, RN has helped San Rafael residents reduce 853,205 pounds of Carbon emissions to date. That is the equivalent of taking 76 passenger vehicles off the road, or diverting 136 tons of waste from the landfill. Learn more about RN, a project of Sustainable Marin, at ResilientNeighborhoods.org. It is free, fun (just look at the picture), and rewarding!

RN is also proud to announce that it is working with the Marin School of Environmental Leadership

(MSEL) located at Terra Linda High this spring. The mission of MSEL is to, "create community leaders of tomorrow" through project-based learning, with a focus on environmental issues. RN will be helping students and their families participate in the Program. Students will also research related topics such as; the environmental impact of wildfire and other natural disasters, measurements of environmental impact, like Carbon Footprint, and more. In March,



the students will begin leading their family EcoTeams through a five-meeting process to reduce their Carbon Footprint and to help create a more resilient San Rafael!