



October 2, 2014
From the desk of Nancy Mackle

Community Engagement Workshops

Following the community survey over the summer, we would like to discuss with you some short- and long-term strategies that San Rafael is considering to improve our engagement and transparency. We have scheduled three workshops (identical in content) in October to receive your input, comments and to figure out the best solutions for our community.



- October 21, 6 p.m. at the San Rafael Community Center (618 B Street)
- October 22, 12 p.m. at the Terra Linda Community Center (670 Del Ganado Road)
- October 25, 10 a.m. at the Boro Community Center (50 Canal Street)

If you can't make one of the workshops, [click here](#) to learn more about our community engagement efforts.

SMART-Related Infrastructure Improvements

On Monday evening at 7 p.m. the City Council will consider a couple of items related to improvements being made to prepare for SMART operations. One such improvement is the closure of a one-way portion of Tamalpais Avenue north of Mission Avenue, while still providing access to all properties on the street. The closure will allow SMART to place required quad gates on Mission Avenue. [Click here](#) for the staff report. The other item is to approve a contract with SMART allowing their contractor to install vital traffic signal conduits and various improvements for the City within their right-of-way. This contract will help streamline work the City needs to conduct in preparation for rail operations. [Click here](#) for the staff report.



Tree Work for New Bike Path

We recently awarded the construction contract for the installation of a multi-use path along the west side of Hetherton Street. The first item of work will be the removal of 13 eucalyptus trees, scheduled to occur the week of October 13. Eucalyptus trees are flammable and litter the Downtown area with tree limbs and branches. Nineteen new Chinese Pistache trees will replace them, next Spring. After the removal of the trees, we will hold off on any construction until Spring 2015 once the winter rains have stopped.



Quiet Zones in San Rafael



Snapshot is an electronic journal straight from the desk of the City of San Rafael's City Manager. It covers the latest news about ongoing topics of interest as well as upcoming events. It is published on Thursdays before every scheduled City Council meeting.

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This week we held our third community meeting on Quiet Zones. The meetings were well-attended and the City Council Subcommittee on SMART was able to hear from many residents about their concerns. If you did not have the opportunity to attend, you can watch the September 18 meeting online by [clicking here](#). We are now working with SMART to understand details regarding indemnification and insurance. On a date to be determined, the City Council will take up the issue and decide whether to designate a Quiet Zone in San Rafael. Stay tuned for a meeting announcement. [Click here](#) to learn more about SMART in San Rafael.



Film Night Fundraiser for the Library

The Friends of the San Rafael Public Library are holding a fundraiser for the Library on Thursday, October 16 at the Rafael Theater. The film will be *American Graffiti*, directed by local juggernaut George Lucas and filmed in San Rafael. You may have seen the movie, but have you seen it on a big screen? There will be a raffle, speakers talking about the film and the library, and a VIP reception. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and the film begins at 7:30. Movie tickets are \$25 apiece, and for \$35 you get a movie ticket plus access to the VIP reception. Tickets are on sale now at the Friends Books store, located at 1016 C Street. You can also purchase tickets at the Rafael Theater and at both the Downtown Library and the Pickleweed Library. All proceeds of this event will benefit the San Rafael Public Library. For more information call 453-1443 or email library@cityofsanrafael.org. See you there!



American Graffiti @ The Rafael, Oct. 16

Accepting Applications for “Day of the Dead” Altars

The 26th Annual Dia de los Muertos (“Day of the Dead”) celebration will be held on Saturday, November 1 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Albert J. Boro Community Center. The organizing committee is now accepting applications for altars. If you would like to honor a loved one by building and altar [click here](#) or contact the Albert J. Boro Community Center at 485-3077 for an application and additional information.



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Applications

Ride your bike or walk much? The City Council is seeking applications for 4 vacant seats on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). BPAC is an advisory committee that provides input on bicycle and pedestrian issues in our community. After Monday, applications will be available [online](#) or at the City Clerk’s office.



New Restaurant Openings

We are excited about several new restaurant openings. Naan ‘N’ Curry recently opened in City Plaza, just off Fourth Street. Naan ‘N’ Curry is a popular Indian and Pakistani restaurant with several locations



NAAN 'N' CURRY

throughout the Bay Area. Also Downtown, Uchiwa Ramen (located at 821 B Street) is Marin County’s first ramen house and it features a beautifully designed interior. Uchiwa Ramen is a graduate of the Renaissance Marin Center Food Business Incubator so it is great to see the success of this entrepreneurial

program. Lastly, there is a new restaurant in Terra Linda (490 Las Gallinas - in the Northgate III Center) called Heirloom Grill. Heirloom features fresh locally sourced produce and a seasonal comfort food style menu - it also features a huge organic salad bar. Welcome new eateries!

Last Council Meeting Recap

In the recent community engagement survey that we conducted, the community overwhelmingly said they want to hear about decisions that are made. In light of that, I'd like to introduce a new regular topic in Snapshot that covers how the City Council voted on notable items at their last meeting. On September 15, the City Council:

- [Approved amendments to the Master Fee Schedule](#)
- [Approved the purchase of 1309 Fifth Avenue](#)
- [Authorized the waiver of a portion of the Construction Vehicle Impact fee for BioMarin](#)

EVENTS

Litquake San Rafael

On October 11 join us for the first [Litquake San Rafael](#) - an all-day festival of books and authors in Downtown/West End San Rafael. There's sci-fi to be

heard at Gamescape, travel stories at Rebound Bookstore, new works by local teens under the spreading tree on the library lawn, stories about relationships in Pleasures of the Heart, and poetry on spiritual themes at Open Secret Bookstore, edgy "wild side" lit at Triumph Skateboards, and buffet lunches at several restaurants where local poets hold free-for all open mics, among other events. All of this to be read by nationally known authors, reading their own work signing, and selling their own books. This event is sponsored by Litquake San Francisco, the San Rafael Downtown Business Improvement District, the San Rafael Public Library, and several shops along 4th Street. [Click here](#) to register for the event.

LITQUAKE

Mill Valley Film Festival

The 37th Mill Valley Film Festival will run from October 2-12 at various venues in Marin, including our very own Rafael Film Center. This year the festival features over 200 filmmakers from over 50 countries. For tickets and information visit www.mvff.com or call (877) 874-6833.



Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Trainings

Marin County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be holding training sessions in San Rafael in both English and Spanish. CERT training is an 18-hour workshop that provides hands-on experience in basic first aid, incident command organization, light search and rescue, fire suppression & more in order to prepare citizens for a major emergency.



- Spanish CERT Training: October 4 and 18 at Boro Community Center (free of charge)
- English CERT Training: November 15 and 22 at Terra Linda Community Center (\$45; scholarships available)

Classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students must attend all 18 hours. To register, visit www.readymarin.org. For more information, email coordinator@marincountycert.org or call 485-

3409.

In addition, the San Rafael Fire Department will be conducting a free Disaster Preparedness class on November 1 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Terra Linda Community Center. To RSVP, email sanrafaelprepare@cityofsanrafael.org or call 485-3304.

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