**November 22, 2013, San Rafael, CA:** Shopping and dining in Downtown San Rafael will be a bit sweeter this holiday season thanks to The City of San Rafael's Downtown Holiday parking Validation Program. Working with the Downtown San Rafael Business Improvement District (BID), the City has expanded the popular free 3-hour parking program to include ALL City-owned parking lots and garages. Starting Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Eve, visitors to the Downtown area may park for 3-hours, FREE of charge in all City-owned parking lots.

As in past years, the Downtown garages at "A" and at "C" Streets are FREE for the first 3-hours with a 3-hour validation. Downtown merchants may give their customers the 3-hour parking validations. Metered street parking will still require payment and will be enforced as usual. Meters in lots will not require payment, however patrons must remember that existing time limits will still be enforced.

Through the expansion of the program to include all off-street parking, the City and the BID are promoting Downtown shopping and dining during the Holiday season while maintaining frequent turnover of short term on-street parking.

The Holiday Validation Program has been a huge success since its introduction in 2006. The Parking Services Division of the City of San Rafael is looking forward contributing to another wonderful and cheery Holiday season.

For further information, contact Parking Services at (415) 458-5333 or Carol Thompson, BID Director (415) 720-5591.