



# South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

## Meet Our Women in Uniform as We Celebrate Women’s History Month



Women’s History Month is celebrated in March to recognize the great contributions that women have made to our nation. It is celebrated in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women’s Day on March 8.

Would you believe that Women’s History Month has roots that trace back to California? In 1978, the school district of Sonoma participated in “Women’s History Week,” an event designed around International Women’s Day.

When others heard about the success in Sonoma, similar celebrations within organizations, communities, and school districts occurred. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women’s History Week. The proclamation stated, “From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often, the women were unsung, and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”

In this issue, we celebrate our South San Francisco women who work in public safety. On a daily basis, they balance their personal and professional lives to make sure your quality of life is the best it can be. We salute them, and next time you see them on the street, please be sure to thank them for their service!



## Upcoming Events

### SENIOR’S VALENTINE’S DAY DANCE

- Friday, February 8  
4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Magnolia Center  
601 Grand Avenue  
*Please register in advance.  
Limited tickets may be available at the door.*

### ASIAN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS LUNAR NEW YEAR

- Saturday, February 9  
2:00 p.m.  
SSF Main Library  
840 West Orange Avenue

### SENIOR’S CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY

- Friday, February 15  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Municipal Services Building  
33 Arroyo Drive  
*Please register in advance.  
Limited tickets may be available at the door.*

### SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

- Friday, March 8  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Municipal Services Building  
33 Arroyo Drive

### FIXIT CLINIC: BIKES, SMALL ELECTRONICS, TOYS, KITCHEN EQUIPMENT, JEWELRY AND MORE

- Saturday, March 30  
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.  
SSF Main Library  
840 West Orange Avenue



## Meet Our Women in Public Safety

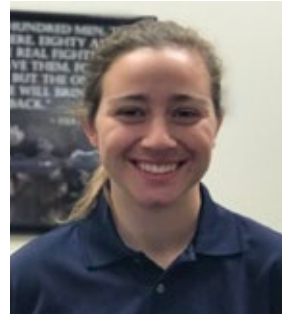
### Fire



**Caitlin (Bortoli) Bucceri**  
Safety Inspector

Originally Caitlin wasn't sure what she wanted to do in her career, but after attending a Fire Science Program, it became much clearer. Now in her sixth year with the South San Francisco Fire Department, she conducts fire inspections at businesses. But

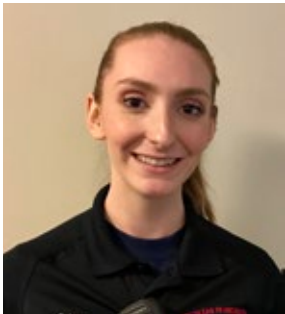
every day is different. *"One day I will walk into a daycare, and the next day I have an appointment at a Biotech company to conduct their annual inspection. My favorite part of the job is the mystery. Not knowing what my day is going to bring. I also love the fact that I get to help out my community. My advice to other women considering the fire service is to be strong and persistent, educate yourself, and go after what you want. Sometimes you might take a different road to get where you want to go, but be creative and diligent. The only limitations are the ones we put on ourselves."*



**Sarah Buscher**  
Emergency Medical  
Technician (EMT)

Sarah has been in public safety since 2016. At the age of four years old, Sarah was transported by SSFFD for a medical condition and ever since that day she dreamt of joining the fire service. Once she learned what

a paramedic firefighter was, Sarah knew that's what she wanted to do for her career, and she's currently on her way, studying for her paramedic license. *"My favorite part as an EMT is making a difference for someone else. On a day-to-day basis, I respond to medical calls and transport people to the hospital. The best advice I have for other women who want to go into the fire service is to keep pushing forward. It is a long road to get a career in the fire service—but don't get discouraged, it will pay off!"*



**Cassandra Rashleger**  
Emergency Medical  
Technician (EMT)

Cassandra has worked in public safety since 2014, and most recently as an EMT for the last two years. *"One of my favorite things about being an EMT is knowing*

*that you helped someone improve their health and their life. My advice for women looking to get into the fire service is to start somewhere and keep pushing yourself. It can be intimidating, but there is nothing more challenging and rewarding than what you find in this career."*



**Rachael Ridenour**  
Paramedic Firefighter

Rachael began her career in fire service as a volunteer firefighter in 2012 and became a paramedic in 2016. Her grandfather was a firefighter for more than 30 years and Rachael was inspired to follow in his footsteps. Her typical day at SSFFD includes responding

to emergency calls throughout the City, ranging from medical calls to fire alarms to structure fires. She also does company fire inspections, hydrant maintenance, and public education. Between calls, she works with other fire personnel to maintain the station and equipment, train other fire service workers, and cook meals. In addition, Rachael is constantly studying to improve her own skills. *"My favorite part of this job is when I'm there to help people in the community on possibly the worst day of their lives. Each day at work gives me an opportunity to be the best version of myself so that I can help others. My advice to other women considering the fire service would be not to let anyone or anything stand in your way. If this job is your dream and your passion, then fight for it! Just keep fighting and making yourself a little better each day."*





## Meet Our Women in Public Safety

### Police



#### Corporal Rebecca Dabney

Corporal Dabney is a 12-year veteran of the South San Francisco Police Department. Always interested in criminal justice and the law, Rebecca knew she wanted to be a part of the law enforcement world, but not from behind a desk. Since 2010, Corporal Dabney has been

a Canine Handler, but as of this printing, her ten-year-old dog, Ares, has retired. She is now with the Neighborhood Response Team, which works in conjunction with patrol, the detective bureau, and the community to address ongoing criminal issues. She also serves as the domestic violence expert for the department. *"My advice to other women considering going into law enforcement is to do your homework to determine which department is the best fit for you. Do some ridealongs, talk to other females in the department, and do everything you can to prepare yourself physically and mentally for the job."*



#### Patrol Corporal Mindy Lopez

Corporal Lopez "fell into law enforcement" more than 15 years ago, not sure really what she wanted to do. She currently works on swing shift patrol as a first responder to your phone calls, but for the past three

years, Mindy was a detective working several cases that ranged from assaults and domestic violence to stolen vehicles. *"My favorite part of my job is training young officers and working cases with victims and families to have a successful outcome. My advice to other women is that this is not just a job—it's a career/lifestyle. It requires mental toughness, physical fitness, empathy, sensitivity and, most of all, desire. Have the desire to want to be a part of something bigger than you. My role is to maintain professional interactions with everyone in my life as I represent the entire law enforcement community. Can you handle that responsibility? Are you willing to take on the challenge? Then come on, it's fun...well, as fun as you make it."*



#### Corporal Elena Dominguez-Brennan

Corporal Dominguez-Brennan is a 20-year law enforcement veteran; with more than 18 years right here in South San Francisco. Ever since she was in elementary school, Elena was interested in becoming a police officer. She has held several positions

at SSFPD; most recently as a School Liaison Corporal working closely with all of the schools in SSFUSD, as well as supervising the Police Explorer Post. Police Explorer Cadets are youth between the ages of 15-21 that volunteer in the police department to learn about different jobs in law enforcement while helping out their local community. *"I love helping people and love seeing the Police Explorers that I have mentored become officers, dispatchers, nurses. My advice to women considering law enforcement is that it's an honorable profession. With only 13 percent of women in the police force, follow your dreams and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it!"*



#### Sergeant Fahmida Murphy

Sergeant Murphy started out as a South San Francisco Police Department records specialist in 2001 and climbed the ranks during

her more than 15-year career. As a records specialist, she was inspired by other officers and knew that she wanted to be a part of her hometown police community. Before her promotion to Sergeant, she served a four-year assignment as a School Liaison Corporal. *"I enjoy building rapport with the community and being part of an agency that the community can rely on and trust. My advice to other women considering law enforcement is not to sell yourself short—be confident—don't be afraid to take on challenges that force you to step out of your comfort zone."*



# Meet Our Women in Public Safety

## Police



**Officer Diana Quintero**  
 Officer Quintero began at an early age as a South San Francisco Police Explorer for four years, and has turned it into a career for the last 12 years. Originally, Diana joined the Explorers because her sister did it, but once

exposed to it, she realized it was what she also wanted to do. *“It was always my dream to work for the community I grew up in and help my own people.”* She currently works patrol, after working the Downtown Bike Patrol over the previous two years. Her advice for women considering law enforcement is to *“never give up and don’t let your size or the fact that you’re a woman in a male-dominated career deter you!”*



### Corporal Amy Sariotti

Corporal Sariotti began her career in law enforcement 12 years ago. Her great grandfather was a motor cop in San Francisco and growing up she always looked at old photos of him in uniform, heard his old stories, and would pore over his memory box with mementos from the job.

When Amy was nine years old, the SFPD swore in her older cousin and she told her family that she, too, would follow in the same footsteps. Amy currently works in the Criminal Investigations Bureau overseeing sex crimes. *“My favorite part of the job is that not one shift is the same. You never know what you are going to encounter or the people you will meet. Seeing the relief in people’s eyes when we walk through the door, knowing we are there to help them, is something that makes me feel good. My advice to women considering law enforcement is to give it more than 100 percent. Have a mentor and, most importantly, have pride when wearing the badge.”*



### Police Officer Kathleen Walsh

For more than 12 years, Officer Walsh has made her career home in law enforcement. Kathleen wanted a career that she could feel good about and one where she was able to make a difference in her community. You may have seen her on the

street as she answers calls for services, investigates crimes, conducts traffic enforcement, and addresses quality-of-life issues for the residents of South San Francisco. *“I enjoy the comradery of working with great people and the challenges that come with the job. My advice to other women is to have the right amount of toughness and the right amount of understanding, and you’ll do just fine in this line of work.”*



### Sergeant Christy Wesselius

Sergeant Wesselius began her career in law enforcement 16 years ago, and it was because she was looking for comradery among her colleagues and the opportunity to serve her community. What Christy loves

most about her job is that every shift brings new and unusual challenges, as well as opportunities that allow her to tackle them with her team. *“My advice to other women is to obtain an advanced education degree, [although not required], and develop excellent writing skills—both of which will take you a long way in your career.”*

**Interested in working in public safety?**



**SSFFD:** Please contact Battalion Chief Juan Byron at [Juan.Byron@ssf.net](mailto:Juan.Byron@ssf.net) or call (650) 829-3950. You can also apply online at [FCTOnline.org](http://FCTOnline.org).

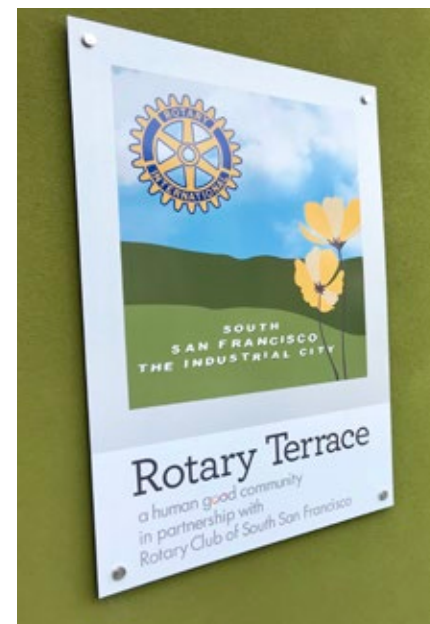
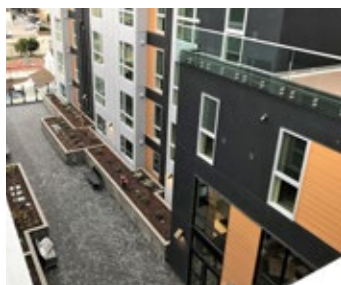


**SSFPD:** Please contact Lieutenant Adam Plank at (650) 877-8921 or email [web-pd@ssf.net](mailto:web-pd@ssf.net)



## Affordable Housing in South City

### The Rotary Miller Avenue Senior Housing Apartments are Now Open!



The Rotary Miller Avenue Senior Housing project is now open. The new apartments on Miller Avenue provide 80 residential units of much-needed affordable housing for senior citizens, with 20 percent reserved for seniors with disabilities. The project is the result of an innovative public-private partnership between the City, South San Francisco Rotary Club, and Beacon Development Communities, Incorporated. These 80 units demonstrate the City's longstanding commitment to affordable housing and add to the list of over 1,000 affordable residential units in South San Francisco.

The building was designed with a mix of modern architectural styles and includes bicycle storage, a lobby, an exercise room, a rooftop terrace and courtyard, and a 2,000-square-foot community assembly space available to all City residents for rental or special occasions.

The project used a lottery system to select qualified residents and received an overwhelming response with over 675 applications. In January 2019, chosen residents began moving into their units. The City is confident that the senior residents will thrive given close proximity to the mix of downtown restaurants and amenities, high-speed Caltrain rail transit, SamTrans bus service, and a City-funded shuttle that connects with the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system.

To apply for a unit in this community, please visit [www.humangood.org](http://www.humangood.org). The application lists the specific requirements (such as the minimum age and maximum income level) and qualifying seniors are encouraged to apply.

#### Resident Perspective:

*Doris has lived in South City since 1985. Since retiring from her job, she has been living on a modest pension and social security. Unfortunately, her rent began increasing significantly in recent years, to the point where her fixed income was unable to cover her rent of \$2,200 per month. At that point, she was at risk of becoming homeless or moving out of the area. But Doris was approved for a unit in the new Rotary Senior Housing community, and moved into her new home last month. She is happy to have found a way to stay in the city she loves and we are happy that she has found a new home!*



## Construction Connection

*Our City is expanding—bringing new jobs, housing, and economic growth to our community. Some of the major projects currently in progress include:*



### **Oyster Point Redevelopment**

Demolition of former buildings near Oyster Point Marina, which included the Oyster Point Hotel, Drakes Marina, Dominic's restaurant, and various office buildings is now complete. Currently, contractors are grading the site to make the slope more accommodating to the new development, which will include three office/research and development buildings, a parking structure, improved utilities, and a new, tree-lined road at Oyster Point Boulevard and Marina Boulevard. The project also includes Bay Trail improvements, new parks and recreation spaces, and a completely refurbished public beachfront on the San Francisco Bay. The expected project completion date is spring 2020. If you'd like to see the construction progress on a daily basis, please visit [bit.ly/OysterPointProgress](http://bit.ly/OysterPointProgress). To stay up-to-date on this project, you can also sign up for email alerts at [oysterpointhotline@kilroyrealty.com](mailto:oysterpointhotline@kilroyrealty.com).



### **150 Airport Boulevard**

Be on the lookout for upward activity in this area! The developer recently completed underground utility installation for sewer and electrical, and is now starting vertical construction on this five-story residential development, which will consist of 157 units and a two-level parking structure. The expected project completion date is spring 2020.



### **Hisense Project: 200 Linden Avenue**

Located in the heart of downtown, this project includes 97 residential units, 6,500 square feet of retail space, and a three-level parking structure. This is not a rental project—all units will be put up for sale, and 19 units will be sold at below market rates. The contractor has completed the first phase of underground utility relocation for this project, and is now working on a water main extension along Baden Avenue which may require several sidewalk closures in the area. The expected project completion date is spring 2020.



### **Merck Campus (213-221 East Grand Avenue)**

The new West Coast headquarters for Merck Pharmaceutical is nearly built, with the contractor finishing up exterior work and landscaping. Construction on this nine-story, multi-disciplinary discovery research facility began in 2017. The building, located on East Grand Avenue in the heart of the biotech cluster east of 101, will soon be home to more than 300 scientists and researchers. The custom-designed campus has an open atmosphere that encourages collaboration and teamwork. The site also has a large auditorium to provide space for nearby academics, scientists, and entrepreneurs.



## City News You Can Use

# Got an Opinion About Biking and Walking in SSF? We Want to Hear From You!

The City of South San Francisco is updating its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and wants to hear your thoughts on improving bike and pedestrian access to schools, parks, transit centers, and all other local destinations.

**Active South City** - South San Francisco’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will reflect the City’s goal to create a more walkable and bikeable environment. This plan will help shape the future of South City’s transportation network and will ensure that the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users are met. *Active South City* focuses on seamlessly connecting people to their destinations, providing driving alternatives that are both healthy and good for the environment. The plan, expected completion in late 2019, will unify and replace the previously adopted 2011 Bicycle Master Plan and 2013 Pedestrian Master Plan.

To help with this effort, visit [ActiveSouthCity.com](http://ActiveSouthCity.com) and use the Interactive Map to share your comments with us! Via the Interactive Map, you can comment on areas you want to see improved or highlight your favorite walking and biking destinations. [ActiveSouthCity.com](http://ActiveSouthCity.com) also gives you the opportunity to learn about the plan update process, including information on upcoming events.



## If There’s No Sign, Remember It’s 25!

Driving speeds should be determined by safety and common sense, even if this means driving below the posted speed limits. As a general rule, always remember that in South San Francisco, if there’s no posted speed limit, then you should be driving 25 MPH.

**Who determines speed limits?** The City of South San Francisco determines speed limits through traffic surveys per standards established by the State of California. Some general speed limit guidelines include:

- 15 MPH speed limit in alleys; at intersections and railroad crossings where visibility is limited, and where there is no railroad crossing signal device
- 25 MPH speed limit on local roadways (business or residential districts)
- 25 MPH in school zones when children are present
- **Streets without posted speed limits;**
  - 15 MPH speed limit in uncontrolled railway crossings; blind, uncontrolled intersections; and alleyways
  - 25 MPH speed limit in business and residential areas without other posted speed limits, school zones, and areas immediately around senior centers



The most common speeding concern expressed to the City involves fast-moving traffic in residential neighborhoods. Please notify the City when situations seem to create problems and report any damaged, faded, or missing traffic signs. To report any of these issues, you can download the Engage SSF app onto your mobile phone, or visit us online at <https://en.seeclickfix.com/south-san-francisco>. You can also submit your comments or concerns via email at [web-pw@ssf.net](mailto:web-pw@ssf.net).

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City Hall  
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South San Francisco, CA  
94080

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Council Member Mark Nagales  
Council Member Buenaflor Nicolas



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## Community Civic Campus Update



The Community Civic Campus project continues to move forward. We are approximately halfway complete with schematic design, which is the first phase of design.

The design of the campus is focused on celebrating the City's diversity and pride. The campus includes a joint Library and Parks and Recreation building, which will provide substantially more space than the current setup at the Municipal Services Building and the Orange Library. The planned three-story building will include Library areas that are more private and inviting, a Discovery Center and multiple event and class spaces designed to appeal to young and old alike. Comfortable seating areas, inviting activity spaces, and relaxing outdoor space will make this

campus feel like your second home. The campus will have substantial spaces for outdoor activities, biking and walking paths, and parking with priority for ADA spaces and visitors that need extra assistance in accessing the new campus. The campus will also include a new Police Operations Center with a state-of-the-art 911 dispatch center, along with a new fire station. The schematic design for the police and fire stations are nearly complete, and they will soon enter the next phase—design development.

Estimated construction is set for early 2020. For questions or comments, please contact [CommunityCivicCampus@ssf.net](mailto:CommunityCivicCampus@ssf.net) or call (650) 877-8502.