



South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

February is Black History Month

Every February, people across the nation come together for events and activities to celebrate Black History Month.

While this year's activities may look a bit different due to

COVID-19, the City of South San Francisco wants to encourage all of us to continue honoring and deepening our knowledge of the history and contributions of African Americans and people of African descent.

The theme of Black History Month 2021 is **The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity** and is set every year by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History®, an organization founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, commonly known as the "Father of Black History."

There are several activities happening throughout the month of February to recognize Black History Month. At the January 27, 2021 City Council virtual meeting, the Councilmember Flor Nicolas read a proclamation honoring February as Black History Month. We invite you to read this proclamation at www.ssf.net/BHM. Additionally, the City will fly the Black Lives Matter flag at City Hall for the month of February, with banners celebrating Diversity along Grand and Linden Avenues. You are also encouraged to participate in the virtual activities taking place around the Bay Area, as well as supporting Black-owned businesses throughout the area. You'll find a list of these activities on page 2. Also, please follow us on Facebook (**City of South San Francisco**); every week you'll find a different theme focused on Black History Month. Lastly, on the next page, learn more about the City's Commission on Racial and Social Equity, which was established June 2020.

The City of South San Francisco continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens – past, present, and future – are respected and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to our community, the state, the country, and the world.



Upcoming Virtual Events

TODDLER STORYTIME

- Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.
[facebook.com/ssfpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ssfpubliclibrary)
Tune in to Facebook Live for stories, rhymes, and fun!

"LIVING IN VIRTUAL TIMES"- ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

- February 14, 2021 – March 14, 2021
Cost: Free
www.ssf.net/culturalarts

ADULT BOOK CLUB

- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- Tuesday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m.
Please email donner@plsinfo.org for the Zoom link

TEEN BOOK CLUB

- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- Friday, February 19 at 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 26 at 4:30 p.m.
Registration for both sessions is required; email ssfyouth@plsinfo.org

SPRING CLASS REGISTRATION

- Resident registration: Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 a.m.
- Non-resident registration: Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:00 a.m.
- Classes begin: Monday, March 22, 2021
www.ssf.net/rec



What is the South San Francisco Racial and Social Equity Commission?



Last summer, issues of systemic racial inequity and social injustice rose to the surface throughout the United States in the wake of highly visible killings of unarmed black men and women. Americans of all races and nationalities called upon leaders of government to examine their practices with a racial and social justice lens to disrupt lingering past practices and the policies that supported them.

On June 14, 2020, South San Francisco leaders joined the efforts of hundreds of communities around the United States and created the South San Francisco Racial and Social Equity Commission. The purpose of the commission is to review and recommend policy and initiatives to the City Council to build a foundation toward curing the ills of injustice.

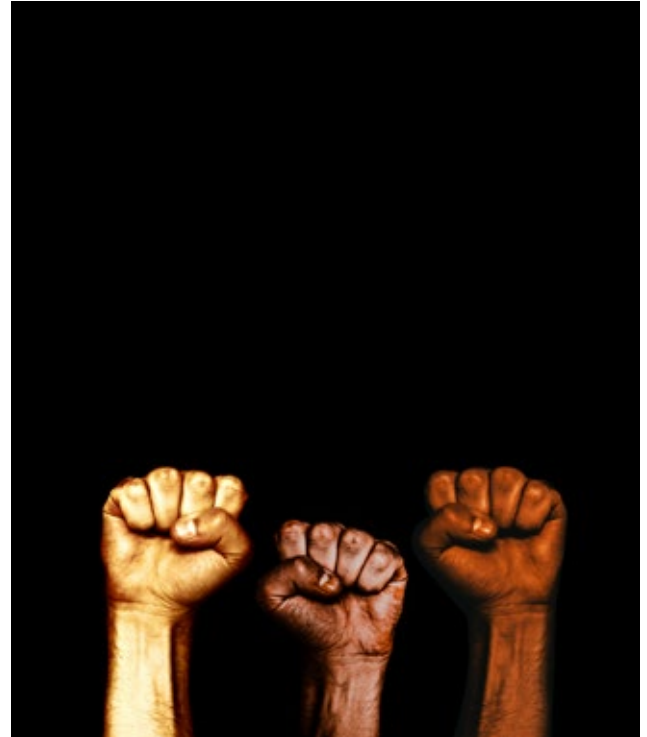
Commission members were seated last fall to represent a broad range of views, expertise, and responsibilities. They include members of city council, representatives of the new voices of #ChangeSSF and the Youth Advisory Council, to the established voices of a “South City” native, to other governmental agencies and members of the community. It is a diverse body of race, ethnicity, professions, and lifestyles. Their bios are at www.ssf.net/RacialandSocialEquity

With objectives to learn, examine, build trust, and collaborate before submitting recommendations to the South San Francisco City Council, the commission divided its work into three phrases.

Phase 1: Information gathering from experts both within the city, public comment, and from neighboring governmental bodies and organizations. In this phase commissioners heard from experts in racial injustice, issues of mental health, educational opportunity, needs or the lack thereof, affordable housing needs, and access to social services.

The commission is currently in Phase 2. In this phase they are examining potential solutions, refining and stress-testing potential strategies to achieve the goals of the mission statement. Phase 3 will focus on refining recommendations to city council for implementation planning by city staff.

The Racial and Social Equity Commission meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 4:00pm and is open to the public via zoom.



MISSION STATEMENT:

The South San Francisco Commission on Racial and Social Equity aims to proactively advance equity in the City’s internal and external processes, as well as to recommend policy and program changes to overcome institutional inequities in education, policing, healthcare (including mental health and addiction services), and other social services. The commission recognizes that each of these areas has a direct impact on the other. They are interrelated and there is a need to develop solutions to address each area of concern.



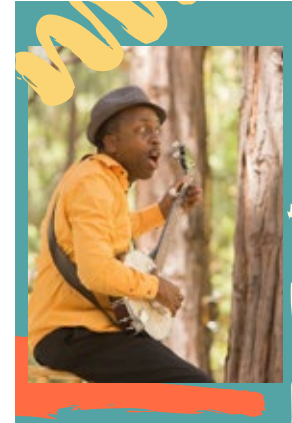
Bay Area Virtual Black History Month Activities



- Join master storyteller Kirk Waller, virtually, as he shares African and African American folktales, legends, and history, bringing them alive with music, movement, singing, and the spoken word. For all ages. Sponsored by the San Bruno Public Library and the South San Francisco Public Library.

Kirk Waller is an award-winning storyteller who has been performing for more than 20 years. He is the former Chair of the Storytelling Association of California and served as Director of Storytelling at Stagebridge, the nation's oldest and most renowned theatre company of older adults.

Pre-registration required for this Zoom event. Register at <http://bit.ly/3cmgUpd> (click on **February 10**, then on **6:30pm** when asked to select a date and time).



- Celebrate Black History Month with stories by and about Black Americans, available through your public library. In addition to thousands of books and movies, the library's website offers reading and viewing guides about Black History to help you find your next story. Access your library's digital collections at ssf.net/library. Don't have a library card? Apply for your South San Francisco Public Library Card here: <https://www.ssf.net/departments/library/get-a-library-card>



- The **San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society** presents exhibits, programs, speakers, and other events which inform and provide context on African American history, life, and culture. Kick-off program and events are via ZOOM. More information at <http://www.sfaahcs.org/events.html>



- **Eventbrite** has many free online events focusing on Black History Month, with topics ranging from Black History Month Kick-off, Black History Month Celebration: Three Contemporary Black Women Inventors; A Focus on Business; Dinner Series; and CA Conversations. More information at <http://bit.ly/3swkRxe>



- **CinemaLit** in San Francisco is featuring four recent films in celebration of Black History Month. Two feature films this month, Oscar winner *Moonlight* (2016) and indie charmer *Miss Juneteenth* (2020), are so good they give hope to the future of African American cinema. More information at <https://bit.ly/3oQ8muh>





CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE



Sign Hill Restoration



On October 16, 2020, a massive fire engulfed much of Sign Hill, destroying or damaging over 1,000 trees and leaving the landscape charred and broken. Now the City is hard at work repairing the damage, winterizing the hill for the rainy season, and removing trees that were unfortunately damaged or killed during the fire for the public's safety. In December, tree work began near Ridge Trail and Eucalyptus Trail, and by mid-January this area has been largely cleared. Now tree work is occurring along Ridge Trail, towards the top of the hill. The purpose of the tree work is to mitigate hazards near trails, as well as reduce potential fuels in the coming dry season. As the trails become cleared and are deemed safe to use again, the Parks Division will re-open the trails. Tree work is expected to continue through March 2021; then pause during the bird nesting season in compliance with the Migratory Bird Act; then resume in late summer.

In addition to tree work on Sign Hill, erosion control work is also occurring. This work includes adding check dams to slow water movement in areas of concentrated flow and in the culverts that line the bottom of the hill behind Rocca Avenue. The installation of check dams in the culvert was completed in early January. In addition to this work, straw wattle is being installed in areas of steep slope and areas that burned so hot that no grasses will regrow for stabilization. When this work is completed, large swaths of the hill will be hydro-seeded with native seed blends to help stabilize surface soils and re-establish native species on Sign Hill. Erosion control work is expected to be complete by February, 2021.



CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

Construction Starts on New Library and Parks and Recreation Center!

After years of planning and public input, construction of the new Community Civic Campus Phase II has started! Located at the corner of El Camino Real and Chestnut Avenue, the Community Civic Campus Phase II consists of a new, modern main library; an expanded Parks and Recreation Center; a community theater which doubles as the City Council meeting room; and a new outdoor park and playground - all located along Centennial Trail. Swinerton Construction began clearing the site of debris and installing the construction fence in early January. Soon the beginning of site grading and digging for the building's structural foundation will begin in earnest. Construction for Phase II is anticipated to last approximately 28 months and will wrap up in the Spring of 2023.



The project will also improve Centennial Trail, the City's three-mile multi-use trail along the BART tunnel, seamlessly integrating the trail into the Civic Campus. During construction, Centennial Trail will stay in operation, re-routing pedestrians and bicyclists at different moments during construction as improvements are built.

The first phase of the Community Civic Campus started construction in early 2020 and consists of a new Police Operations and 911 Dispatch Center. Located on Antoinette Lane and Chestnut Avenue, the new public safety center will open in Fall, 2021.

The Community Civic Campus, with its new parks and public facilities, will improve the quality of life for South San Francisco residents, providing opportunities for leisure, learning, play and adventure for residents of all ages. **Stay Connected! Stay Involved!** Visit our dedicated website, www.CommunityCivicCampus.net.

South San Francisco Minimum Wage Increases to \$15.24 per hour Effective January 1, 2021

In August, 2019, the South San Francisco City Council voted unanimously to increase the hourly minimum wage to \$15.24 per hour for all employers subject to a South San Francisco business license effective January 1, 2021. Every employee who performs more than two (2) hours of work per week within City boundaries must earn a minimum of \$15.24 per hour. To learn more about the new minimum wage and to download employer notices, please visit www.ssf.net/minimumwage.



CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE



Mental Health Clinician Responding to Emergency Calls

Many 911 emergency calls traditionally handled by our Police Department involved persons in mental crisis. To improve the City’s response to these type of calls, the City Council approved creation of the *Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (CWCRT)* which embeds a professional mental health clinician with police, providing improved emergency response to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crises. The pilot program is a partnership with San Mateo County behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and Stanford University. Once hired and trained, the new mental health clinician will hit the streets of South San Francisco in late Spring.

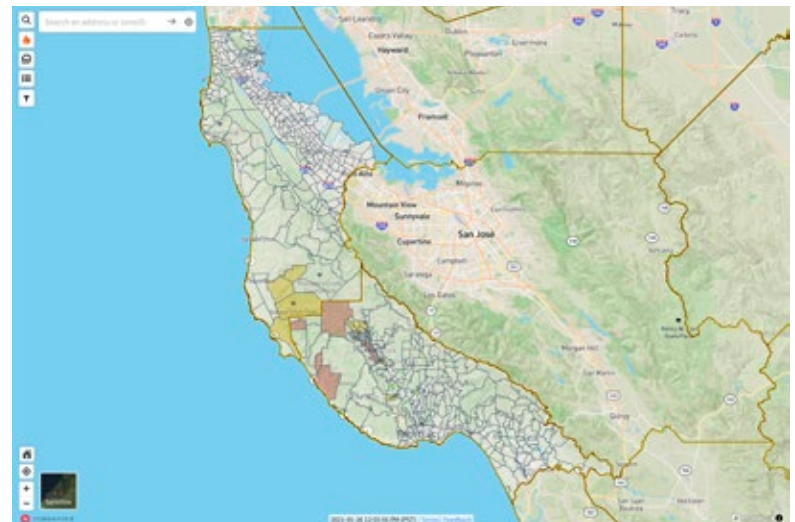


The John W. Gardner Center of Stanford University will conduct regular data analysis to determine the program’s effectiveness, assess outcomes, and consider appropriate adjustments. The pilot program will run for two years. Over time, the goal is to assign the right professional to respond to specific emergencies thereby improving public safety and emergency response.



Know Your Zone.... Your Life Could Depend on It!

Wildfires, gas main breaks, overturned vehicles containing hazardous materials... there are many emergencies requiring citizen action. If an emergency occurred near you, would you know if you should shelter in place or evacuate from your neighborhood?



Zonehaven helps bridge the gap between emergency services and community members by engaging, educating, and informing the community members with firsthand knowledge and real-time updates. For example, law enforcement and fire agencies will issue evacuation warnings or orders for impacted areas in the event of a wildfire or other emergency situations. These notices are issued for a zone with an evacuation status. It is important that you understand what evacuation zone you live in so you can receive critical evacuation information.

How Do I Find Out My Zone and Sign Up?

As a City of South San Francisco resident, simply enter your home address into the interactive map (<https://community.zonehaven.com>), which shows all 300+ San Mateo County evacuation zones. Record your zone number and review zone details before the next emergency...these are the same zones our Public Safety Departments will use if there is a need to evacuate portions of our city. You can also receive alerts by signing up here: <https://hsd.smcsheiff.com/smcalert>

This campaign is a countywide effort to improve the evacuation process in San Mateo County. For more information, please visit <https://myzone.zonehaven.com/>



CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

Are You Struggling with Rent? Afraid of Eviction? Help is Available!

There are many resources for South San Francisco renters who need help paying rent and understanding their legal rights. More information is available at www.ssf.net/RenterHelp or call **(650) 829-6620**.



Do you need help paying rent?

If you need help paying rent, finding emergency shelter, or paying utility bills, please contact YMCA at (650) 276-4101 or (650) 271-3850. Rental assistance is available based on your income. All are welcome to apply, regardless of immigration status.

The application includes:

- A form that YMCA will provide to you once you call
- Your lease agreement or a letter from your landlord stating your lease terms
- Documentation of late rent owed (this can be a note from your landlord)
- Documentation of your income (like a paystub or unemployment insurance)
- Proof of address (like a utility bill or bank statement)
- Photo identification (like a student ID, driver's license, or foreign passport)

YMCA staff will help you gather these documents and work with you to find the assistance you are eligible for.

Have you missed rent payments due to COVID? Are you afraid of eviction?

For updates on new legislation, please go to www.ssf.net/RenterHelp.

If you are afraid of eviction, or you have received an eviction notice, follow these steps:

1. Do not move
2. Consult a lawyer immediately (websites and phone numbers below)
3. Return the declaration form within 15 days
4. Keep all your documents related to eviction, rent paid, and assistance requested

For legal advice, please contact:

- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County at **(650) 558-0915**
<https://www.legalaidsmc.org/housing-resources>
- Project Sentinel **(800) 339-6043**
<https://www.housing.org/covid-19>
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto **(650) 326-6440**
<https://clsepa.org/services/>

Looking for a New Job or a New Career Path?

Have you lost your job as a result of Covid-19? Looking to develop a new skill? **JobTrain** is a nonprofit educational and training institution available, serving lower income or unemployed individuals in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. The organization provides both online classes and vocational programs with the goal of preparing students for successful, sustainable careers in high-demand and emerging fields.

The JobTrain Supportive Service Center provides confidential, one-on-one advice at no cost, for assistance with applying for government benefits, accessing legal advice, wellness referrals, affordable childcare, and housing assistance.

JobTrain currently offers online classes which include: ESL, Digital Literacy Skills, and IT Services & Support. The current career training programs available include: Carpentry, Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, IT Support & Services, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Medical Assistant.

Visit www.jobtrainworks.org for more information.

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Vice Mayor Mark Nagales, District 2
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Councilmember Eddie Flores, At Large
Councilmember Buenaflor Nicolas, At Large



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The FREE smartphone app, mySSF, gives you access at the touch of a fingertip! Available on Apple iOS and Google Android.

Don't have a smartphone?
Go to www.seeclickfix.com and report your issues online.

La Ciudad de South San Francisco ofrece boletines de noticias en español en nuestro sitio web. Puede encontrar una copia electrónica en www.ssf.net/Newsletter

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Your Toilet is Not a Trash Can!



During the COVID-19 pandemic, many are spending more time at home, and using more disinfecting wipes to avoid sickness. Did you know that just because wipes are labeled as “flushable,” they should never be flushed down the toilet? Wipes do not disintegrate in the quick fashion that toilet paper does and they stay mostly intact as they travel through sewer pipes. Wipes can also cause large obstructions when they catch on roots or other debris in sewer lines. Although these wipes may be convenient for cleaning and disinfecting, remember to always toss them in the trash!

A friendly reminder:

Flushing down baby wipes, diapers, rags and towels can cause problems in your private sewer lines resulting in expensive bills from a plumber. These obstructions can cause raw sewage to back up and overflow onto the streets and into our environment, or even back up in your home.

