



South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

South San Francisco City Council Approves Acquiring Open Space on Sign Hill



(Yellow indicates the newly acquired land; blue indicates what the City currently owns)

The city is celebrating the agreed acquisition of nearly 21 acres of land on Sign Hill, which following completion of the sale will be perpetually dedicated as open space for the public to enjoy. Recently the City Council approved terms to purchase a portion, and accept a large donation of land, on Sign Hill which had been zoned for residential development. Residents will soon have access to 65 acres of open space on Sign Hill.

A very large thanks is owed to the Liberty family, which donated most of the land to the city, and in recognition of the donation the new parcel will be named “Friends of Liberty Park.” Thanks is also owed to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors which, in February, 2018, provided funding to the City allowing the purchase of an additional land parcel to round out the 21 acre acquisition.

“The expansion of our parks and open spaces for our residents to enjoy is a very high city priority,” added City Manager Mike Futrell, “and many breathed a sigh of relief when this land on Sign Hill was removed from potential development and dedicated as open space.” The new parcel will be maintained by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, with the help of many volunteers dedicated to the environmental sustainability of the area. Read more about Sign Hill on page four of this newsletter.



Upcoming Events

COFFEE WITH THE CITY MANAGER & NEW FIRE CHIEF

- July 9, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Fire Station #61, 480 N. Canal Street

FREE MOVIE IN THE PARK - COCO

- Date: Friday, July 20;
movie begins at dusk
Location: Orange Memorial Park – Front lawn area in front of the Fernekes Building

SPENCER GREY MAGIC SHOW

- July 28, 1:00 p.m.
Main Library,
840 W. Orange Ave

STERLING BUBBLE MASTER SHOW

- August 4: Two locations
12:30 p.m. at Main Library,
840 W. Orange Ave.
2:30 p.m. at Grand Library,
306 Walnut Ave

CULTURAL ARTS BARBEQUE LUNCH & FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH ART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- August 26, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.;
\$15 adults, youth age 16 and under \$5
Joseph Fernekes Building,
781 Tennis Drive, Orange Memorial Park



July is Park and Recreation Month!

It's Officially Summer and Our Parks and Recreation Department Has a Program for You!



Alta Loma park re-opening celebration

This July, under the umbrella of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), South San Francisco will celebrate **Park and Recreation Month**. This year's theme is "A Lifetime of Discovery," with the goal of encouraging residents to experience some of the "undiscovered" programs and amenities that the South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department has to offer, and showing the community that **A Lifetime of Discovery** awaits you at our local parks and rec centers.

Keeping with the theme of "A Lifetime of Discovery," staff of the Parks and Recreation Department are sharing just a sampling of the types of community programs they offer. Below, and continued on page three, is a list of staff recommendations of things to "discover" right here at home this summer:

- **Free Drop-In Classes Sponsored by the SSF Friends of Parks and Recreation**

To celebrate Park and Recreation Month, the South San Francisco Friends of Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring a variety of free drop-in recreation classes throughout the month of July. These classes are a great opportunity to explore a new area of interest, try out a different instructor, or simply meet up with your fellow community members. Classes will vary in not only days, times and locations, but in age range, too. More details on the programs offered will be shared in the coming months. Visit our webpage at www.ssf.net/rec for up-to-date listings of classes and registration info. Get ready to discover all the fun community recreation classes can bring to your life!

- **Sign Hill Hiking Trails**

Park at the end of Ridgeview Court, in the small public lot at the base of Sign Hill. Walk past the cattle gate and up the steep maintenance road to the top of Sign Hill. There are several trails that branch off at the top, offering incredible panoramic views of South San Francisco and the entire Bay Area. If you've never seen the concrete letters up close, this is a must see, not to mention appreciating the native habitat that is home to the endangered Mission Blue and Callippe Silverspot butterflies.



July is Park and Recreation Month!

• Bocce Courts

Do you know how to toss out a pallino? Also located in Orange Memorial Park, just to the east of the Sculpture Garden, are six bocce ball courts. The courts are operated by the Italian American Citizens Club, whose members will tell you that these are the best bocce courts in all of the Bay Area. For a small membership fee, South San Francisco residents are welcome to join the club and enjoy this social pastime, which dates back to ancient games played in the Roman Empire. The courts are open to the public Monday – Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Bocce is a family-friendly activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and fitness abilities.



• Family Night at Orange Memorial Swimming Pool

Every Friday night during the month of July from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., parents and up to three children can swim at Orange Memorial Swimming Pool for just \$5.75. This is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to spend quality time together doing something fun and healthy at a very reasonable cost.



• Drop-In Pickleball

According to the USA Pickleball Association, each of the 50 states has at least one Pickleball location; but did you know you can play right here in South San Francisco? Monday nights, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Terrabay Gymnasium (1121 South San Francisco Dr.) is transformed into a welcoming Pickleball community. Recreation instructor Paul Swink oversees the four courts of pick-up Pickleball matches and offers instructions and pointers to those interested. For Pickleball and other drop-in class schedules, visit our webpage at www.ssf.net/rec.



Parks 11 Update

The South San Francisco City Council is investing more than six million dollars to upgrade its parks and sports fields. Eleven parks and sports fields will be renovated and upgraded in a comprehensive program known as “Parks 11.” These sites were identified as a priority for upgrade based on the age of the existing park infrastructure, condition, and level of use. Recently, we celebrated the reopening of the first of the “**Parks 11**” projects, Alta Loma Playground, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Parks & Recreation Department replaced playground equipment and surfacing, performed landscaping, installed a new seatwall featuring ceramic tiles created by local children, and implemented pathway improvements.



There's More to Come!

Six park projects are under design, including Orange Memorial Park baseball and softball fields, Sellick Park playground, Buri Buri Park ballfield, Avalon Park ballfield, Hillside Park ballfield, and Gardiner Park playground. Design work is done to estimate the costs for improvements and to inform the prioritization of improvements. Conceptual designs for each of the sites will be presented at public meetings to solicit community feedback. Adjacent neighbors for a particular project are notified by mail when these meetings occur; interested residents can also sign up to be notified by email at web-rec@ssf.net.



Sign Hill: Past and Present

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO THE INDUSTRIAL CITY is the most visible landmark of South San Francisco and was created in 1923 with the support of the Chamber of Commerce, for the price of \$300. The original letters of Sign Hill were painted with a mixture of white washed lime and white cement. The original sign attracted new visitors, residents, and business owners, so the Chamber decided to recast the sign. The members agreed on a \$5,000 bond that was approved by the city voters to create a new sign of 60-foot cement letters. All agreed the sign would be good advertising for the City.

Through the years, the sign has had many uses, including pilots who used the white letters to guide them to the airport during foggy or rainy weather. The sign was honored in 1929, when the City received an award signed by Charles Lindberg for contribution to “aerial navigation.”

In 1932, the hill was decked out with another high-visibility project – at the time the largest electric sign in the world. About 388 feet long, with thousands of lights, it was mounted on piers at the top of the hill. Fourteen messages, 15 seconds each, flashed such slogans as “Drink Acme Beer,”

and “Maxwell House Coffee, Good to the Last Drop.” This less historic sign was destroyed by heavy winds in 1940s. (You can see this sign in the far background of the picture displayed.)

In 1996, through the efforts of Edna Spangler Harks, the United States Department of the Interior recognized the sign in the National Register of Historic Places.

The History Room at Grand Avenue Library, and the Historical Society’s Museum at 80 Chestnut Avenue, offer a wealth of information about the region, and many interesting facts about Sign Hill.



PRESENT:



Sign Hill Park is comprised of 64.7 acres of undeveloped open space, which includes 20.1 acres recently acquired by the City. The new parcel will be named “Friends of Liberty Park,” recognizing the donation of land to the City by the Liberty family.

The park includes five hiking trails and three trailheads which are located at the end of Poplar Avenue; the end of Ridgeview Court; and the steps above Spruce Avenue at Diamond Avenue and Telford Avenue. More than 70 native plants are documented on the Sign Hill site and it is one of only six places in the world where colonies of the endangered Mission Blue butterfly survive. The site is rich in

biodiversity, and home to rare native Franciscan grassland habitat.

Sign Hill is owned by the City of South San Francisco, and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. Working in collaboration with the City, volunteers from San Bruno Mountain Watch, led by dedicated efforts of Chuck Heimstadt and Loretta Brooks, have worked diligently for years to eradicate invasive species and plant native plants.

Sign Hill is a rare and irreplaceable open space oasis in the center of what is becoming an ever increasingly dense urban area. What are now rare plants on the Hill, such as the coast iris (*Iris longipetala*) were historically abundant. The open space provides an opportunity for rain to be absorbed and to recharge the aquifer. The plants and trees on the Hill sequester carbon and release beneficial oxygen into the environment. The area provides habitat for many creatures that call Sign Hill home, including hawks, native bees, hummingbirds, and many species of butterflies, including the endangered Mission Blue.

For more information about Sign Hill Park, please refer to the Parks and Recreation page on the City’s website at ssf.net, or call the Parks Division at (650) 829-3837.



As South City Heats Up, the Fire Department Has Some Reminders

July 4th – Independence Day and Your Personal Safety

Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day, yet the thrill of fireworks can also bring serious injury and damage. The South San Francisco Fire and Police Departments want to remind people that while they want residents to enjoy the holiday, ALL fireworks are **illegal** in South San Francisco. Also, it is unlawful for any person to sell “safe and sane” fireworks, and/or regulated fireworks within the City.

DID YOU KNOW:

South San Francisco Offers CPR and First Aid Classes Both in English and in Spanish?

According to 2016 US Census Bureau data, 57.6 percent of South San Francisco residents older than five years old speak a language other than English at home.

The South San Francisco Fire Department offers CPR and first aid classes in English and Spanish. Classes are periodically scheduled; check the South San Francisco Fire Department website for dates and information. Classes are held at the South San Francisco Fire Department Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 480 North Canal Street. Come learn these life-saving techniques from South San Francisco Fire Department Emergency Medical Technician Jonathan Barcia and feel confident that you can assist in an emergency medical situation if necessary.

Meet Your New Fire Chief: Jesus “Jess” Magallanes

Fire Chief Jess Magallanes is no stranger to South City, in fact, he has spent his entire career here and now is the City’s newest Fire Chief. Chief Magallanes brings more than 21 years of experience as a firefighter with the City, working his way up the ranks from firefighter to Deputy Fire Chief, and most recently serving as the interim Fire Chief after the January 2018 retirement of Chief Gerry Kohlmann. While working his way up through the ranks of the South San Francisco Fire Department, Chief Magallanes completed the Prehospital Care Program/Paramedic Sciences through the College of San Mateo. He is also a State Fire Marshal Level 1 Instructor, and California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) qualified Strike Team Leader, among many other certifications.

As Chief, he will direct all activities involving the City’s innovative all-risk fire department, leading the members of the South San Francisco Fire Department in fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, urban search and rescue, rescue boat operations, fire investigation, public education, disaster preparedness, and ambulance transport services.



Fun Fact:

The rank structure that came out of fire service military ranks following the civil war involved a speaking trumpet. A speaking trumpet was the first portable radio- in the days of horse drawn apparatus the foreman carried the “megaphone” to shout orders over the sound of the hand pumpers, steamers and crowd. The speaking trumpet also made it easy to identify who was in charge of the fire. The speaking trumpet, or bugle as it is sometimes referred, has become a symbol of command. Officers became identified with these objects so a small pin in the shape of a bugle became a type of rank insignia for officers. The more “bugles on his collar” the higher the rank, with a cluster of five trumpets identifying the chief of department. Today’s ceremony formally passes the symbol of commanding the South San Francisco Fire Department to our new fire chief, Jess Magallanes.



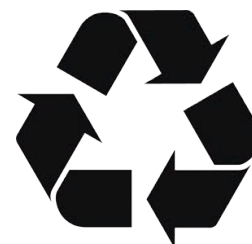


Did You Know Import Policies Impact Recycling?

Recent changes in Chinese government policy are having a profound impact on American recycling efforts. Known as “National Sword,” the new policy significantly decreases the amount of recyclables that can be shipped to China for processing into new products. It also stipulates that recyclables being shipped must be contaminate-free. South San Francisco Scavenger Company has responded by allocating additional resources to their sorting and quality control efforts.

What can you do?

- Focus on reducing waste. Choose reusable, durable products and avoid single-use disposable items.
- Sort recyclables correctly and keep cart lids closed. Aluminum, glass, and rigid plastic containers belong under the blue lid of your split cart. When possible, empty and rinse the containers first. Clean, dry paper products belong under the gray lid. Food-soiled and wet papers belong in your organics cart.
- Do not put loose cardboard out for collection on a rainy day. Save it for your next service day or bring it to Blue Line Transfer. Clean, dry cardboard will be accepted at no charge. Be sure to securely transport your cardboard—truck loads must be covered and tied down.
- Use your garbage cart for non-hazardous materials that are not allowed in your recycling and organics carts. If you live in a single-family residence, schedule an On-Call Cleanup for large or overflow items.
- Visit www.ssfscavenger.com or contact SSF Scavenger Company by phone at (650) 589-4020 if you have questions regarding what belongs in each of your carts. Also contact SSF Scavenger Company if your recycling cart lids are in need of replacement or repair.



YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

It's summertime and more and more people will be out and about using their personal bikes and/or using the bikeshare program, LimeBike, that you may see around the City. We want you to enjoy these bikes, but also want you to stay safe and abide by local laws. Below are four simple tips to help make your next ride safe and enjoyable!

- Tip #1:** Use bike lanes and roadways. LimeBikes should not be ridden on sidewalks.
- Tip #2:** Protect yourself. Always wear a helmet.
- Tip #3:** Follow all street signs, signals, and markings, and obey local traffic laws.
- Tip #4:** Let others know when you are turning, changing lanes, or stopping.



When it comes to parking your LimeBike, be thoughtful. The City has provided more areas around town to conveniently park your bike. If you can't locate a designated bike spot, please be considerate, share the sidewalk, and park closer to the curb, out of the way of pedestrian traffic. Be mindful and avoid blocking sidewalks, disability access ramps, bus stops, and landscaped areas.



Construction Update

San Bruno Canal Bridge is CLOSED (South Airport Boulevard & North Access Road)

The South Airport Boulevard Bridge over the San Bruno Channel at Interstate 380 was originally constructed in 1949. The bridge is inspected every two-years through the Caltrans bridge inspection program, and was scheduled for replacement this year due to age.

The City’s original plan was to replace the bridge in two sections; enabling the bridge to remain open to traffic during construction. The project was scheduled to be completed over a two-year period.

The most recent structural inspection prior to beginning construction revealed that the support pilings deteriorated much faster than during previous inspections. Some piles were fully severed while others were hollow. With public safety as our primary concern; a determination was made to close the bridge completely.

The San Bruno Canal Bridge at South Airport Boulevard and North Access Road is closed until approximately November, 2018, due to the deteriorated piles supporting the bridge. **Public safety is the City’s number one priority.** Traffic detours have been implemented to facilitate safe travel around the construction site. The City recognizes the inconvenience to the public and will minimize disruption as much as possible. For questions, please email CityInfo@ssf.net.



Residential: 150 AIRPORT BOULEVARD

Demolition and cleanup of 150 Airport Boulevard is underway to prepare for the construction of a five-story residential development consisting of 157 units and a two-level parking garage. This site was previously the home of Spun Steak, a meat manufacturing company. This facility closed and was vacant for more than 10 years. The project is located near the Caltrain station and the downtown retail corridor. The new complex is anticipated to open by the end of 2019.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES:

Please check the construction website for updates and traffic information at <http://construction.ssf.net>. If you have any concerns, you can reach us on our Construction hotline at (650) 829-4600. You can also email us at Construction@ssf.net. Thank you for your patience and understanding. The City is committed to providing you with timely information to minimize inconveniences.

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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.



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Register to Vote: Your Voice Counts!

The ability to vote gives citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on a variety of issues. However, there are thousands upon thousands of individuals who have the ability to vote, but don't. **Every vote matters.**

Did you know: Less than half of South San Franciscan residents are registered to vote? Registering to vote is easy! You can register online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> or visit your local library for a mail-in registration card. Through voting you have the opportunity to influence the government and make a positive change in your community. We need every single resident to get out to the polls and make a commitment to bring someone with you. Use your vote to make your voice heard this November!

