



South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

Happy Holidays, South San Francisco!



While COVID-19 has made the holidays different this year, don't let that take the Merry out of enjoying the time with your family and loved ones. It is critical that we all do our part and limit gatherings as much as possible, keep wearing our masks, washing our hands, and social distancing. Remember to support our small and locally owned businesses in South San Francisco. Have fun with your family by putting up decorations inside and out of your house, maybe going the extra mile this year since we are all at home more. Most importantly, stay safe!

Winter Wonderland at Orange Memorial Park

From sunrise to sunset for the month of December, you are invited to Orange Memorial Park to view the Winter Wonderland window scenes displayed at the Joseph Fernekas Recreation building. Enchanting scenes from the North Pole are certain to delight residents of all ages. No registration is required, but all visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear appropriate face coverings.

On December 12th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., the magic of the holidays will bring the Winter Wonderland to life. Santa and his North Pole friends will delight registered visitors as they fill the window displays with the holiday spirit. Due to COVID-19, spaces are limited, and pre-registration is required. Visit www.ssf.net/rec or call the Parks and Recreation Department at (650)-829-3800 for more information.

Letters to Santa is Back!

The "Letters to Santa" program is back at City Hall! You can find the postal box on the steps of City Hall and we encourage all children to write a letter to Santa this year. In order for Santa to have time to respond to letters from all the little boys and girls, please make sure to have your letter to Santa in the mailbox by Monday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m. Also, Santa requests that you provide your mailing address to ensure his letter gets to your child in time. Santa reads and responds to every letter individually – believe in the magic!

Upcoming Events

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) VIRTUAL ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

- Monday, October 26th – Sunday, November 22nd
www.ssf.net/culturalarts

47TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FUN RUN – VIRTUAL

- Saturday, November 14th – Sunday, November 22nd
www.ssf.net/rec

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

- Monday, November 23rd – Registration Required - please call the YMCA at (650)-276-4101.

FRESH HOLIDAY WREATH "TAKE HOME" KITS – IMPROVING PUBLIC PLACES FUNDRAISER

- Sunday, December 6th – Registration Required - To reserve your kit, call the Recreation office at (650)-829-3800, or email Susan.Filereto@ssf.net

CHRISTMAS FOOD/GIFT CARD DRIVE

- Saturday, December 21st – Registration Required - please call the YMCA at (650)-276-4101.



Enjoy Fresh Holiday Wreath “Take Home” Kits!



Don't let COVID-19 dampen your spirit – pick up a holiday wreath “take home” kit and decorate for the holidays! The City's Improving Public Places Committee is providing wreath kits, which include your choice of enough fresh greens to make your wreath, sustainably harvested from city trees; wreath frame; paddle of floral wire; your choice of large, hand-made bows in a variety of colors and patterns; and DIY instructions to make you look like an expert! Participants will be scheduled in small groups to pick up their wreath kits on Sunday, December 6, between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the Joseph Fernekes Building patio in Orange Memorial Park. Register early to get your first choice of times. There is a \$30 fee, with proceeds being used to fund plantings and clean up efforts around the city.



What better way to get into the holiday spirit than making a fresh green wreath with the family! To reserve your kit, call the Recreation office at 650-829-3800, or email susan.filereto@ssf.net.

Helping During the Holidays: Thanksgiving Food Distribution on November 23rd And Christmas Food/Gift Distribution on December 21st

Times are hard for many, and it is during the holiday times, of all others, when want is keenly felt, and abundance rejoices (our apologies to Dickens). The City of South San Francisco has partnered with YMCA, Second Harvest Food Bank, and volunteers to distribute pre-packaged food boxes on November 23rd, and December 21st for those in need. Our Holiday toy drive will look a little different this year, with gift cards being distributed instead of toys due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is required. For more information contact the YMCA at (650)-276-4101. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to help others, please email Marie.Patea@ssf.net or call (650)-829-6666.

South San Francisco Loves Public Art! Tell Us What You Like

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life...Pablo Picasso

Public art is key to quality of life in South San Francisco. The Cultural Arts Commission is expanding our public art offerings, and urges you to take the Public Art Survey, providing input on the direction of public art in our city. Take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSFArt2020> and take a moment today to enjoy the public art in South San Francisco. Locations of existing public art installations are easily found using the City's interactive public art map at www.parksmat.ssf.net.

Gardiner Park has Re-Opened!

After an extensive and complete renovation, Gardiner Park (137 Gardiner Avenue) has reopened, providing fun for children of all ages. Safely visit the remodeled park to check out the new improvements and upgrades. Please remember -- wear your mask and wash your hands before and after using the playground equipment, and don't touch your face or eat while using playground equipment. Gardiner Park is part of the City's **Parks 11 Program**, a comprehensive plan to renovate eleven parks in South San Francisco. More park improvements are coming, with Orange Memorial Park ballfields starting reconstruction in 2021!





Sign Hill Tree Lights up the Night

The historic “tree” will once again light up on Sign Hill, attracting locals and visitors alike. Thursday, November 26th (also Thanksgiving Day), a tradition more than five decades strong will welcome the holiday season. If you’re in South San Francisco, be sure to watch the “Sign Hill Tree” light up at dusk. It will shine brightly until midnight every night through the holidays. “The Sign Hill Tree” was first installed in 1969 and consists of 784 bulbs, all maintained by the Public Works Department.

Here are a few facts about the Sign Hill Tree, courtesy of the South San Francisco Historical Society:

- The “tree” is actually a 90-foot telephone pole with “leaves” of steel cables wrapped in strings of lights. The pole is 75 feet high out of the ground and extends around 15 feet underground.
- A generator, provided by Buzz Haskins, was originally used to power the “tree”. The electrical crew manually started and stopped the generator at dusk and midnight. It wasn’t until about 1973 that electricity was installed up on the hill.
- There are 28 individual strings of lights.



The annual undertaking is no small feat. Planning begins in July and the City’s Electrical Division installs the cables to support the structure in early November, though the tree is not lit until Thanksgiving. For more about our City’s history, virtually visit the South San Francisco Historical Society at www.ssf.net/ssfhistory.

47th Annual Thanksgiving Fun Run-Virtual!

Every November, as many prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, hundreds of South San Francisco residents gather for the City’s annual Thanksgiving Fun Run. This year’s 47th annual race will look a little different -- it will be virtual! Throughout the week of November 14th – November 22nd, take a jog around the neighborhood, explore a new park or trail, or hop on a treadmill and be part of this annual community event. Track your own time using an app or device (MapMyRun, Apple Health, Fitbit, or any other device or mobile app), and simply submit the best result. Don’t have an electronic fitness tracker? No worries! A stop watch will work fine or check out one of South San Francisco Library’s electronic fitness trackers with your library card. All registered entries will be eligible for the top awards per age group, and be entered in a drawing for some fun raffle prizes. The cost is only \$5, and children 12 years and younger are free! Visit www.ssf.net/rec for registration information, event rules, and a variety of 5k routes throughout the City. Racers - *on your mark, get set, GO!*



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Learn how to make a “go” bag in case you must evacuate your home in an emergency by watching a video tutorial from our South San Francisco Fire Department at <http://bit.ly/GoBagSSF>. Also watch our other South San Francisco informational videos at <http://bit.ly/videosssf>

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Holiday Safety Tips:

Winter holidays are a time for joy and family togetherness. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Did you know, more than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles? As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart by following a few simple tips that will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday Safety Tips:

- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Before heading out or going to bed, blow out any lit candles.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Be careful with holiday decorations.

Did you know more than one of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems?

Christmas Tree Safety Tips:

- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Add water to the tree stand, and replenish daily.
- Remove the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Questions about recycling your Christmas tree? Call SSF Scavenger at (650) 589-4020.

Stay COVID-19 safe, and fire safe, this holiday! The City of South San Francisco wishes you and your family a joyous holiday season, and a happy 2021!