



# South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

## 'Tis the Season for "The Nutcracker" and "Santa Comes to Town!"

*It's hard to believe the holidays are here – but never fear – The City of South San Francisco is full of activities to get you in the holiday spirit. We've got you covered from Santa visiting City Hall, to outdoor music, magical performances and workshops that will get your creative juices flowing.*



Santa Comes to Town 2016

### Santa Comes to Town

Rain or shine, Santa Claus is coming to South San Francisco City Hall on Saturday, December 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A tradition since 1981, this event gives children the opportunity to meet and chat with Santa and tell him whether they've been naughty or nice! This event is co-sponsored by the City of South San Francisco, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Kiwanis Club.

### Wreath Workshop

Join the South San Francisco Improving Public Places Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department for two wreath-making workshops on Sunday, December 3, at 9:30 - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Workshop leaders will help you create a gorgeous natural holiday wreath with fresh greens harvested from South San Francisco parks! Registration is \$25.00 per person, but spaces are limited so be sure to register early. Contact the Recreation office for more details: (650) 829-3800.

### Holiday Music Schedule

For the third year in a row, sounds of holiday music will fill the Grand Avenue breezeway (356 Grand Avenue) during the month of December. Stop by during the lunch hour for a dose of holiday cheer!

- Friday, December 1: Mike Hart's Holiday Brass (brass band), Noon to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7: South San Francisco High School Marching Band, Noon to 1 p.m.
- Friday, December 8: El Camino High School Marching Band, Noon to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14: Mike Hart's Holiday Brass (brass band), Noon to 1 p.m.
- Friday, December 15: Vocalicious (vocal octet), Noon to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, December 21: Vocalicious (vocal octet), Noon to 1 p.m.
- Friday, December 22: El Camino High School Marching Band, Noon to 1 p.m.

For more information on these musical performances, please visit our website: [www.ssf.net](http://www.ssf.net).

## Upcoming Events

### FOOD FOR FINES

- **Clear library fines by donating non-perishable food**  
Through December 30, 2017  
Main Library, 840 W. Orange  
Grand Avenue Library,  
306 Walnut Ave.

### CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

- **Election of new Mayor**  
Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Services Building  
33 Arroyo Drive, Social Hall

### SSF LIBRARY WINTER OPEN HOUSE

- Saturday, December 8  
Main Library,  
840 W. Orange Avenue  
Grand Avenue Library,  
306 Walnut Avenue  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### SSF PARKS AND RECREATION'S CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER

- Saturday, December 16,  
1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.  
South San Francisco  
High School  
400 B Street, Auditorium

### WINTER CAMP

- **Holiday fun for children K-12 during winter break**  
December 26-28 & January 2-4  
Terrabay Gymnasium  
1121 South San Francisco Drive  
Advanced registration required.  
Call (650) 875-6900 for info.



## City Departmental News

# Holiday Toy and Food Drive Has Kicked Off

No matter how you celebrate the holidays, to get the full value of the season, consider giving to those less fortunate. The City of South San Francisco, the South San Francisco Police and Fire Departments, and the YMCA Community Resource Center are once again partnering for the 2017 Holiday Toy & Food Drive! We are accepting donations of non-perishable food items along with new, unwrapped toys and gift cards with a special focus on ages 0-3 years and 12-17 years. Wondering what to get a teen? Examples include gift cards for music, movies, etc.

Monetary donations are also accepted and, for the first time, you can donate via credit card (VISA or Mastercard) by calling the Fire Administration Office (650) 829-3950.

Toy and food bins are located at the following City locations: City Hall (400 Grand Avenue), Corporation Yard (550 N. Canal Street), Police Station (33 Arroyo Drive), Fire Station #61 (480 N. Canal Street), Main Library (840 W. Orange Avenue), Grand Avenue Library (306 Walnut Avenue), and Parks & Recreation (33 Arroyo Drive).



2016 toy drive volunteers at Fire Station #61



### Winter Rain is on the Way! Are You Prepared?

South San Francisco winter storms can cause floods, landslides, uprooted trees, and downed or broken utility lines in almost any neighborhood. Are you prepared? The City is proactively preparing for winter storms by cleaning out storm drains, trimming trees and addressing possible low-elevation areas that could flood. As a resident, you also need to prepare. Inspect your yard area(s) for dead trees or dead limbs and remove other objects that could be blown by storm winds, causing power outages and clogged storm drains.

Consider **Adopting a Storm Drain** and help prevent flooding in your neighborhood. Volunteers receive a box of supplies and advice on how best to keep storm drains clear. Sign up at [bit.ly/SSFAdopt](http://bit.ly/SSFAdopt) or call (650) 877-8550 for more information.

Stay Informed! Go to [www.smcalert.info](http://www.smcalert.info) and sign up to receive cell phone or email alerts for tsunamis, floods, fires, road closures, etc.



## City Departmental News

**“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.”**

**– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Did you know that the City maintains an urban forest of approximately 15,000 street and park trees? Preservation of all of the community’s public and mature, privately owned trees is important to maintain a healthy environment. Trees help sequester storm water and pollutants, absorb street noise, block wind – all while providing shade and beautifying public areas and private property.

If you’re considering removing or pruning a tree anywhere on private property, depending on the size of the tree, you may be required to obtain a tree permit prior to performing any work. Tree permits are required for the pruning or removal of trees in various instances noted in section 13.30 of the City’s Municipal Code. A list of these instances can be found by visiting the trees webpage at <http://www.ssf.net/parks>.

You may incur significant penalties if you remove or prune a protected tree without a permit. If you’re unsure if a permit is required for tree work, or if you need more information on filing a permit, please call the Parks Division at (650) 829-3837 or submit a service request on **EngageSSF**. If you see what you think may be an unpermitted removal, please notify the Parks Division of the location and contractor’s name so we can investigate the issue.



### **Dockless Bike Share:**

#### **Respect Your Neighbors and Your Community**

By now, you may have seen the orange and lime-colored bikes in South San Francisco, which are part of a six-month pilot dockless bike share program operated by two competing bike share companies, LimeBike and Spin. There are 400 LimeBike and Spin bikes around the City and on average South San Francisco residents are logging more than 350 rides a day, with more than 1,600 unique registered riders. All this bike riding has equated to over 1,700 vehicle miles saved and a reduction of 1,400 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air.



While bike ridership is off the charts, it comes with some growing pains. As the bike share program is dockless, users can park a bike in many places. However, the bikes cannot be parked just anywhere. When parking a bike, please be responsible and courteous and do not park in the following locations:

- On the sidewalk in residential neighborhoods
- On corners
- At bus stops
- Areas that block driveways and sidewalks
- Grass or dirt areas

By being respectful of this program and doing your part as a responsible bike rider, we hope this pilot program will succeed, allowing for continued bike sharing in our City.

### **Become a Tax Volunteer at the Library**

*It’s not too early to start preparing for tax season!*

Project Read, a program of the South San Francisco Public Library, is recruiting volunteers for the 2018 tax season. For more than five years, Project Read has helped hundreds of low-income families, seniors, and other individuals file tax returns at no charge. No experience is needed to volunteer and we will provide you with free training on how to prepare basic tax returns. You will also learn about tax deductions and credits that benefit eligible taxpayers. The hours are flexible; volunteers generally serve an average of three to five hours per week from February through the tax filing deadline in April. Call Project Read (650) 829-3871 to sign up.



## Local South San Francisco City Employees Offer Their Perspectives

Several local emergency responders from South San Francisco responded to the environmental tragedies in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and Santa Rosa. Read, in their words, their perspectives on being on the front lines.

### **Texas – South San Francisco Fire Captain James Anderson**

It was August 17, 2017, when Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Rockfort, Texas. Harvey caused at least 91 deaths and total damage from the hurricane is estimated at nearly \$200 billion, making it the costliest natural disaster ever in the United States.



*“I deployed to Texas as part of Task Force 3 for Hurricane Harvey. Task Force 3 deployed as a Mission Ready Package (MRP) as a Water Rescue Component. We deployed from Menlo Park, California and drove 36 hours straight to get to our reporting location. We were assigned to a town approximately 20-30 miles outside of Houston called Wharton, Texas (which is a small rural town). We deployed our Inflatable Rigid Boats (IRBs) and Jon Boats (small aluminum hull boats) and performed search and rescue operations in Wharton. We rescued both people and pets. The conditions made it very difficult to work. It was extremely hot and very humid. While performing search and rescue in the flooded areas, we encountered entire homes and churches that were almost completely flooded – a lot of the time we were only able to see the eaves and the rooftops of the structures. In several instances we would be driving boats down the center of roadways and almost be at the same level as the power lines. In some instances, we had to work with the railroad companies to load our boats on to the rail cars to get to certain flooded locations. I was extremely honored to represent the City of South San Francisco and California Task Force 3 while deployed to Texas. I was also humbled by the people of Texas, as they were some of the kindest and most grateful people I have ever come across during my career.”*

### **Florida – South San Francisco Fire, Emergency Service Manager Ken Anderson Sr.**

It was September 10, 2017, when Hurricane Irma made landfall in Cudjoe Key, Florida with winds exceeding 130 mph. The Category 5 hurricane caused more than 90 deaths in the contiguous United States.



*“Upon arrival in Orlando, Florida, I was met by the American Red Cross (ARC) Management Team Members at headquarters and given a Situation Update and a tour of some of the worst hit areas from Hurricane Irma. My job was to make sure much-needed areas in my districts were getting meals (lunch and dinner) and bulk supplies (cleaning kits, diapers, tarps, and water) to the people in the communities that needed them. To give you an idea: in one day, over 41,000 meals, including snacks, were served to citizens of Florida. On most days, the warehouse received over 30 semi-trucks delivering these goods from FEMA or food distributors, of which I then coordinated delivery. Phase two of my two-week stay in Florida was transitioning to the Florida Keys. There I had the opportunity to help over 50,000 people who had lost everything. As I made the long drive to the Keys, I was anticipating the devastation I might be seeing, but nothing could have prepared me for what I saw. Homes were in ruins, sunken boats, lots and lots of debris, large motorhomes turned upside down, power and cable lines down, vegetation of all kinds dead due to the four and a half feet of saltwater storm surge that flooded the islands. I arrived at Saint Peters Church, a church in total ruins. I soon learned that this would be the Big Pine Base Camp and my home for the rest of my time in Florida. I must say after 12 long, hard, stressful, hot, and humid days – it went by super-fast, and it has been one the most rewarding things I believe I have ever done in my life!”*



## Local South San Francisco City Employees Offer Their Perspectives

### ***Puerto Rico – South San Francisco Fire Captain Brian Wisler***

It was September 20, 2017, when the Category 4 storm known as Maria smashed into Puerto Rico. More than 55 people died, and more than 50 percent of Puerto Ricans still don't have power.



*“It was an honor to represent the South San Francisco Fire Department as part of the response to Hurricane Maria. The assignment was not like any other fire assignments I have been a part of. FEMA assigned our team to set up and run an ‘air bridge’ in unified command with several branches of the military. The air bridge was a receiving and distribution center where supplies would come in by air and then be assigned a location and sent out by ground. We were responsible for delivering supplies to seven different service centers, which the Puerto Rico National Guard ran. From there, the supplies would be further distributed to people in that geographic area. There were a couple of days on the assignment where we had the opportunity to participate in and deliver direct humanitarian assistance to the people of Puerto Rico. On October 10th, a police officer guided us as we provided supplies to multiple areas in and around the municipality of Utuado. All of the people we delivered supplies to had not received any official aid since the onset of Hurricane Maria three weeks earlier. When I look back on my fire service career, this will be a day that I will always remember. We came to an area that had many people on the other side of a bridge that had washed out. They had a sign that translated “camp of the forgotten.” They had a pulley system set up with a shopping cart attached. We delivered food, water, and flashlights to those people using the shopping cart pulley. It was an experience I will never forget.”*

### ***Northern California Fires – South San Francisco Fire Captain Todd Rael***

The seven wildfires that swept across Northern California in October destroyed 8,889 structures and took the lives of 42 people. South San Francisco Fire Captain Todd Rael responded to the Tubbs fire.



*“We were sent to respond to the Tubbs fire... we had no idea what we would see when we arrived. As we drove north on Hwy 101, we could see two large smoke plumes from both the Atlas Fire in Napa and the Tubbs fire in Santa Rosa. As we arrived in Santa Rosa, none of us were expecting to see a fire that had jumped over Hwy 101 to involve multiple commercial structures as well as residential. In 20 years of experience in the fire service, I’ve never seen anything like what we witnessed. As we drove to our first assignment, we continually passed neighborhood after neighborhood that was destroyed by the fire. Structures were burning everywhere you looked. Once we started fighting the fire, on several occasions the water from the hydrants would stop flowing from pump houses, which were also burning and power supplies were interrupted. This made our fight even more difficult. We worked non-stop over the first 48 hours in the Fountaingrove and Coffey Park areas to save as many homes as possible. For the remainder of our deployment, we interacted with multiple residents, and each time we spoke with them it was heartbreaking to hear of their stories of waking up and often evacuating with just the clothes on their backs, unsure if there would be a home standing when they returned. Some already knew there was nothing left. Often they watched their homes burning in their rearview mirror as they drove away. However, it was amazing to see and hear of the resolve the Sonoma community had. We witnessed neighbors helping neighbors. The outpouring of support and love for their neighbors, community, and the responders was unlike anything I have ever experienced.”*

To see pictures taken during their time in their respective deployments, visit [bit.ly/SSFPerspectives](http://bit.ly/SSFPerspectives)



## Community News

### Measure W Update

In 2015, South San Francisco residents approved the passage of Measure W, which ensures that the City of South San Francisco is able to maintain and enhance locally controlled City services that the community cares about and expects. These services include expansion and enhancement of public safety, quality of life and education programs, and services provided by our police, fire, library, and parks and recreation departments.

With the funds generated from Measure W, the City is now able to build a new Community Civic Campus that will house a new police station, parks and recreation building, and library. The Community Civic Campus includes the design and construction of a new library and parks and recreation facility located on the land immediately adjacent to El Camino Real and Chestnut Avenue. In addition, there will be a new Police Operations Center and 911 Dispatch Center built at the location of the existing Pet Club at Chestnut Avenue and Antoinette Lane. A new fire station will also be built, at the southeast corner of Arroyo Drive and Camaritas Avenue, providing fire and emergency medical response for a large portion of South San Francisco.



#### What's Next?

The City is in the final stage of selecting a master campus architect to design the Community Civic Campus. The City is committed to listening and working with the public on the design of the Community Civic Campus, and will solicit feedback and ideas from residents on the design through a series of town halls and surveys beginning in early 2018. The City will post additional updates and information about the Civic Campus, and Measure W, on the Measure W website – [www.measurewssf.com](http://www.measurewssf.com) – to keep everyone informed and engaged on this important community project. You can also access this website through [www.ssf.net](http://www.ssf.net).

If you would like to be on the Measure W email distribution list, please contact [CityInfo@ssf.net](mailto:CityInfo@ssf.net).

### Genentech, Futurelab and How YOU Can Help Our South City Schools

Genentech has been a part of South San Francisco since its founding in 1977 and has always been a great partner in our community. This partnership was recently taken to a higher level by Genentech recently with its creation of **Futurelab**, a collaborative program with the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD) to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. **Futurelab** builds on Genentech's long-standing commitment to science education and seeks to make a difference in the lives of local students, as well as empower teachers and inspire employees. Genentech has committed over \$18 million dollars to South San Francisco schools, including the donation of a new \$8 million science lab at South San Francisco High School which opened in September, 2017. Through the program, South San Francisco students at every grade level have opportunities to engage in STEM.

SSFUSD teachers are seeking to enhance their classrooms and student learning through **Genentech's Double Your Impact Match Campaign** with [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org). This program doubles the fundraising power of preschool through 12th grade teachers, and provides them with valuable classroom tools like reading centers, robots and math games. Since 2014, Genentech has matched public donations via campaigns through [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) resulting in more than \$350,000 in classroom supplies for SSFUSD. Learn more about this program at [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org).



# 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:



## The Rotary Club Senior Affordable Housing Project on Miller Avenue: Residential

The South San Francisco Rotary Club, in partnership with the City of South San Francisco, is building a five-story building with 81 affordable residential units for senior citizens, located on Miller Avenue, between Maple and Linden Avenues. The contractors are currently installing the foundation and perimeter walls as well as installing utilities. The units should be open for residents around Spring 2019. For information about getting on the waiting list for one of these new units, please visit [www.HumanGood.org](http://www.HumanGood.org) or call 1-800-635-2558.



## Costco Business Center: Retail

The Costco Business Center celebrated its grand opening recently and is open to all Costco members. The warehouse store occupies the old Levitz store space on Dubuque Avenue off Oyster Point Boulevard. South San Francisco is now home to three Costco retail stores!



## Gateway of the Pacific: Biotech

This project, located on the corner of Oyster Point and Gateway Boulevards, will house various biotech companies and commercial businesses. The project will have two office buildings, one 12-story and one five-story, an amenity building, and a two-level subterranean parking garage. The developer expects to complete construction by Winter 2019.



## Merck: Biotech

Construction of the Merck Campus Parking Garage at 333 Roebbling Road continues to move forward. The project includes a nine-story office building at 213-221 East Grand Avenue, as well as a multi-level parking garage. The developer expects to complete construction by Summer 2019.

Stay in touch with our weekly Construction Connection email update. Sign up for our electronic newsletter at <http://bit.ly/SSFNewsletter>.

## Parks 11 Update

Work has begun on the renovation of Alta Loma Playground in South San Francisco! This park will soon be home to new play equipment, along with accessibility improvements to the parking lot and nearby pathways. The City is providing more than \$300,000 in funds to conduct this renovation, and the park will reopen before the end of 2017, weather permitting.

South San Francisco is renovating a total of 11 parks in our City, bundled under the project name “Parks 11.” You can track the progress of the Parks 11 program by visiting [www.bit.ly/SSFParks11](http://www.bit.ly/SSFParks11).



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## 2017 City Council

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Vice Mayor Liza Normandy

Councilmember Mark Addiego

Councilmember Richard Garbarino

Councilmember Karyl Matsumoto



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

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## New Caltrain Station Construction Has Begun!

It has taken years of planning, but now that planning has turned into reality. On November 6, 2017, the South San Francisco Mayor and City Council officially broke ground on a new Caltrain Station for South San Francisco, marking the beginning of construction. The new station, located at the intersection of Airport Boulevard and Grand Avenue, will include a plaza at Grand Avenue, increased lighting and safety measures, and greatly improved transit options for residents and visitors. The station redesign brings together the City's vision for rejuvenating downtown South San Francisco, while providing a safer and more accessible Caltrain station for residents and visitors. The new Caltrain station is expected to open Fall 2019. In the meantime, the existing Caltrain Station, located under Highway 101, will continue operating throughout construction of the new station.



Future Caltrain Plaza rendering

Separately, Caltrain is also moving forward with the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, which will electrify the Caltrain line, converting diesel powered trains to electric trains. The new electric trains will be quieter, more energy efficient, and better for the environment. These trains will also increase passenger capacity through increased service. To learn more, visit [www.calmodtrains.com](http://www.calmodtrains.com).