

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 21, 2024

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Library | Parks and Recreation Center EV Charger Status Update

At the November 13 City Council meeting, staff was asked to provide an update on the status of the electric vehicle chargers at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. They are currently offline. The new payment terminal has been established, and staff are working with the manufacturer to update the chargers' firmware. Staff has encountered complications connecting them to the network, and is working with the manufacturer to address this. Staff anticipates this will be completed by the end of the month or early December at which time they will be re-energized.

Sports Program Update

Middle School Sports



South San Francisco's Middle School Sports Program kicked off the 2024 - 2025 school year with volleyball and flag football. The volleyball divisions included co-ed A and B levels. With three sixth grade teams, two seventh grade teams and three eighth grade teams there were a total of 82 participants. Flag football had one team for each grade. The total of 42 participants was a notable turnout for this sport.

Going into the winter 2025 season, seventh and eighth grade basketball has begun. Similar to fall sports, the program started off with a free camp. The free camp had a total of 23 girl players and 27 boy players, and league play consisted of 57 boys between both grades, which formed five teams, and 26 girls between both grades which formed three teams.

Coaches are excited for basketball season this school year. Many program players from last year have improved immensely and were placed on a higher division level team. The NCRL league has also added new events to the basketball program. An eighth-grade all-star game and a three-point contest will take place for the first time this season.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Update

At after school program sites, the days leading up to Halloween were filled with themed art, science, and games that included paper plate pumpkins, puff paint ghosts, and Frankenstein creations. However, nothing compares to party day. This year party activities included witch hat ring toss, spider hat ring toss, spider races, jack-o-lantern bean bag toss, monster can knock down, toilet paper mummy contest, carnival games, pumpkin corn hole, monster toss, skeleton hand races, and Halloween bingo.



Preschool Update

On Thursday, November 7, Aleni Capaz, Preschool Coordinator and Diana Gonzalez, Preschool Supervisor, attended a Knowledge Network Meeting with other Big Lift Agencies within the county. The purpose of this initial meeting was to focus on partnering with other agencies on how to work with families in Big Lift classrooms to achieve early literacy goals. Currently there is a requirement to implement Fluet SEEDS, which is an assessment tool to work with children at their level of literacy to enhance opportunities in the classroom for growth and development. The first part of the morning was for introductions and keynote speakers. Topics included Building Trusting Relationships with Families Through Parent Cafes and Chronic Absenteeism and the Effects on Student Learning. Preschool staff attended workshops on building partnerships to build strategies for Parent Cafes. Discussions were led by the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD) regarding their model of parent cafes. San Mateo County Libraries led conversations on the LENA Grow, being introduced in preschool and TK classrooms. This program uses evidence-based systems to boost children's language, literacy and social-emotional development. It also provides coaching and feedback to teachers and parents that focuses on interactive talk. There will be future workshops on both of these topics to further identify current levels of connections to student learning in family engagement efforts.



**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: December 19, 2024

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Sports Program Update

51st Annual Fun Run & Oyster Point Marina Park Ribbon Cutting



The 51st annual Thanksgiving 5K Fun Run took place on Saturday, November 23, immediately following the Oyster Point Shoreline Park Phase 2C ribbon cutting. The course was changed this year so the race would start at the dog park and finish near the Oyster Point Shoreline Park picnic area. The run/walk also went through Genentech Campus and along the Bay Trail.

Registration for the Fun Run opened on August 1 with tremendous amount of interest. In 2023 for the 50th anniversary, a discounted price and shirt were offered. In 2023, 1,370 people pre-registered and 760 attended the event in person. This year, 825 people pre-registered and 634 attended. T-shirts were sold separately this year. Both years, the wet weather was a factor in people not attending the event. The event is growing in popularity compared to previous years. The sponsors for the Fun Run are listed below. Please pencil Saturday, November 22, 2025 into your calendars for the 52nd anniversary of the Fun Run event.

The Department has collected \$3,250 and in-kind donations valued at \$850 in support of the event. These donations will be brought to City Council at a future meeting for formal acceptance. Sponsors for the 2024 Fun Run include Danny Boy Designs, Kilroy Realty, the Basque Cultural Center, Kaiser Permanente, Genentech, and Fitness Tech.

Cultural Arts Program

Two Artworks from Permanent Collection installed in Library | Parks and Recreation Center



Two interior artworks that had been in storage since the move from the Municipal Services Building (MSB) were installed in the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. The works are accessible for public viewing. Part of the City's permanent collection, they will be available for viewing when entries from the quarterly art gallery shows and solo art exhibitions are not on exhibit. More information on the pieces may be found on the [Interactive Public Art Map](#) at www.ssf.net/culturalarts.

The series of nine butterfly paintings, titled *California Butterfly Illustrations*, are the creation of North Bay artist, MaryAnn Nardo. On exhibit in the first-floor corridor, the fine art giclee portraits are based on the meticulous study of the different life cycle phases of each butterfly. The original paintings were made on Douglas fir wood panels. The panels were painted with transparent watercolor, so the grain of the wood is seen through the transparent paint. Featured is the Mission Blue Butterfly, as it was designated an official symbol of the City by the South San Francisco City Council in 2012. MaryAnn Nardo has a degree in Fine Art/Photography and studied biological illustration.

Installed in the third-floor lobby, the two abstract paintings, titled *Conflict*, are the work of the late local artist, Ronald Burgess. The pair of paintings are a diptych, in that they are companion pieces which are intended to be viewed together. The painting with the red background and white strokes is titled *Harmony*. The second piece, with white background and red strokes is titled *Chaos*. In 2017, subsequent to a recommendation by the Cultural Arts Commission, the City acquired the paintings for a nominal fee from the long-time resident artist. Mr. Burgess served in the Cultural Arts Commission from 1995-2013, generously contributing to the artistic foundation of the community. Mr. Burgess had also donated two abstract black and white paintings in 2011. Those works, titled *Synapse III and IV*, are currently in storage to be installed at a later date.



Finding A Path Art Show

The South San Francisco Cultural Arts Program presents a February art show titled "Finding A Path." The juried visual art exhibit features two-dimensional and three-dimensional work that illustrates the theme of finding a path through personal experiences or by engaging with broader cultural and societal narratives.

The online art entry deadline is Friday, January 24. Drop-in entries will be allowed on Tuesday, February 4 during the hand-delivery times of 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The entry guidelines and online application form are available on the “[Current Opportunities for Artists](http://www.ssf.net/culturalarts)” webpage at www.ssf.net/culturalarts.

The art show opening weekend dates are Friday, February 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The show takes place at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center, 3rd floor gallery. Admission is free.

Following the opening weekend the gallery hours will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning February 10 through February 28. Special evening viewing hours are on Tuesday, February 24, when the gallery will close at 8:00 p.m. The gallery will be closed on February 17, in observation of Presidents Day.

2025 Art Gallery Events

Since 2020, the Cultural Arts Commission has moved to incorporate themes more regularly for their quarterly art gallery exhibits. The selected themes for 2025 are listed below. The art shows take place at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center, in the 3rd floor gallery with the exception of the Youth Art Show. Because the youth art event continues its 24-year partnership with the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD), it features hundreds of artworks. Subsequently this exhibition is represented throughout the building during the opening weekend.

All art gallery exhibits are open to the public and free to attend. The gallery is also open weekdays for approximately two to four additional weeks following the two-day show opening event. The 2025 opening weekend dates and themes are as follows:

- February 7 & 8 – **Finding A Path**
- April 11 & 12 – **Youth Art Show** (partnership with the SSF Unified School District)
- June 27 & 28 - **Freedom, The Future of Hope** (Honoring Resilience and the Spirit of Juneteenth)
- October 3 & 4 - **Past, Present, Future** (Celebrating Indigenous Culture)

More information is available at www.ssf.net/culturalarts.

Senior Services Program Update

National Alliance of Mental Illness



National Alliance on Mental Illness hosted an Open House at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Senior Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide a satellite classroom for programs in North County. On Monday, November 18, a NAMI Open House was held at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center. Prior to the open house they held a Mental Health 101 session that taught the basics of mental health. Future programs will include a connection support group for seniors, provider classes as well as a connection support group for adults. Future presentations will include additional Mental

Health 101 as well as an “Ending the Silence” presentation that educates the community about mental health, the warning signs of mental health conditions, and the appropriate steps to take when someone is displaying symptoms.

Holidays at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center



Hawaiian Plus class students performed.

Staff have been very busy celebrating the holidays at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center with participants. Thanksgiving was celebrated with the Adult Daycare clients by enjoying a nutritious lunch, creating holiday themed art activities, and ending the day with pumpkin pie. At the Congregate Nutrition Program, participants enjoyed pie for dessert as they gathered with friends. After they returned from the Thanksgiving holiday, Senior Services staff worked diligently to schedule amazing holiday performances. On Thursday, December 5, the Lions Club volunteered to sing holiday carols at the Congregate Nutrition Program.

They sang beautifully and all the attendees really got into the holiday spirit by singing along and dancing. On Tuesday, December 10, the Hawaiian Plus class performed for the Adult Daycare clients and at the Congregate Nutrition Program. The Adult Daycare clients enjoyed singing along with the ukuleles and watching the dancers. The Congregate Nutrition participants loved learning how to dance and watching their friends perform. Staff looks forward to the White Elephant gift exchange during Congregate Nutrition Program on December 17 and the Seniors Holiday Dance at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center on December 20.



Senior participants enjoyed the holiday activities.

Preschool Program Update



Examples of the turkeys the children created.

At Siebecker Preschool, Teacher Amanda provided a take home assignment for the children and families. The assignment was to disguise a turkey. A turkey ditto was sent home with the children to decorate and disguise their turkey. The purpose of the assignment was to have family fun, use what they have at home, and to work together while creating memories. This is an opportunity for parents and families to encourage creativity. The children then report the process of creating their turkey to their classmates which helps in building their literacy and presentation skills

Holidays with Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Holidays are an exciting and fun time in Youth Enrichment Services (YES). While staff uses every opportunity to celebrate, this time of year is filled with themed projects, delicious snacks, and parties. Throughout the month of November there were Thanksgiving many turkey-focused themed activities. These included turkey leg ring toss, Thanksgiving bingo, turkey cup toss, acorn and squirrel tic-tac-toe, edible cornucopias, turkey puppets, thankfulness trees, turkey donuts, turkey pastels, and paper bag turkeys.

Fun activities include learning components such as learning about the history of cornucopias while making edible ones. The art activities allow for development of fine motor skills and foster children's creativity. Thanksgiving would not be the same without Friendsgiving parties. The children ate together as a program family and enjoyed holiday themed food such as turkey wraps, tater tots, cinnamon dip with apples, cookies, and juice. They were also given the opportunity to share something for which they were thankful.



Santa Comes to Town Event 2024



The Santa Comes to Town event held on Saturday, December 7 was a remarkable success, drawing an estimated 1,000 attendees. The event aimed to foster community spirit during the holiday season and allow families to create cherished memories of getting a picture with Santa.

The event's standout feature as it is every year was the opportunity for families to take photos with Santa. Over 225 families participated in this activity, resulting in countless smiles and positive interactions. Many families expressed gratitude for the chance to capture special moments, a tradition in their holiday celebrations.



Feedback collected from attendees indicated a high level of satisfaction. Suggestions for improvement were a few participants struggled with the long line and would like additional activities and light refreshments.

The Parks and Recreation staff organized photos, line control, and overall event planning. The South San Francisco Fire Department transported Santa to City Hall and offered pictures with the fire trucks for the community. South San Francisco Police Officer Michael Valdes led the Police Explores, who assisted with parking enforcement and crowd control. The Chamber of Commerce organized local businesses to participate in free giveaways such as hot chocolate, cookies, and other holiday treats. The Chamber also collaborated with a local company, Flowers and Events by Dani, who assisted with the event's photo backdrop and holiday decorations. Everyone's dedication and hard work made the Santa Comes to Town event a memorable experience for our community.

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 16, 2025

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Sports Program Update

2024 was an exciting year for the Sports Program as the number of participants grew compared to 2023. Below are the participation statistics for all teams:

- Middle School Volleyball and Flag Football: 127
- K-2nd grade RAPP Basketball: 68
- 3rd-5th RAPP Basketball: 40
- Middle School Track & Badminton: 30
- Junior Giants: 410 participants with 100 volunteers
- 6th-8th Grade Basketball: 122 students and 12 teams
- Adult Softball: 17 teams
- Adult Basketball: 7 teams
- Bocce Ball: 86 participants
- Free basketball and volleyball clinics: 132
- Open Gym (Basketball, Pickleball and Badminton): 3,750 participants

Sports staff is always looking for coaches to accommodate the growing demand for teams, so if you know anyone that might be interested, please have them reach out to our new Sports Coordinator, Brooke Bayangos.

Hoop Shoot Out



The South San Francisco Elks Lodge partnered with the City of South San Francisco to host their annual Hoop Shoot event on December 14, 2024 at the Terrabay Gymnasium. The Hoop Shoot is a free throw shooting contest for youth ages eight to thirteen years of age. Participants compete in local, district, state and regional contests to advance to the National Finals. The program is free to all contestants.

2024 Hoop Shoot Out participants

Rentals Program

2024 Facility Rentals

In 2024, the Parks and Recreation Facility Rental Program managed reservations for several popular South San Francisco venues, including the new Banquet Hall and Social Hall at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR), Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building, Alice Peña Bulos Community Center, and Terrabay Gymnasium. The Rentals Program accepts reservations for South San Francisco community centers 11 months in advance and accommodates a variety of events, ranging from small gatherings at Terrabay, to larger celebrations at the new Banquet Hall. In 2024, Mike Mulkerrins, Supervisor of Sports and Rentals, and Austin Navarro, Rentals Coordinator, worked to meet the high demand for these sought-after venues, permitting a total of nearly 600 rentals throughout the year. All four South San Francisco indoor venues remain in high demand for private events, and we look forward to another successful year in 2025.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The City of South San Francisco partnered with the American Red Cross to host the first blood drive of 2025 inside the Social Hall at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR) on Thursday, January 2. There was a total of 39 appointments of which 32 donations took place. Red Cross staff reported no issues and that the setup and unloading went very smoothly in the morning. Recreation Staff are working with Red Cross to plan more blood drives in the future. To donate blood, please go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org).

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Winter Camp 2025



Youth Enrichment Services staff provided an enchanting program over winter break for children in TK through age 12. In the theme of Winter Tales, each day provided the opportunity to explore a book through art, science, games, nutrition-based activities and more. Children and staff also participated in theme dress days which included holiday pajamas, New Year's attire, Ugly Sweaters, and Hogwarts attire. Winter Camp served a total of 233 children. Of those, 89 are part of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program.

The children celebrated the New Year together.

Classes Program

Nutcracker 20th Anniversary Performance



2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the Nutcracker.

On Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22, the South San Francisco Civic Ballet program presented their highly anticipated annual Nutcracker performances at the South San Francisco High School Theater. This marked the 20th anniversary of our Nutcracker event. This year's production featured over 150 dancers with participants in varying ages of 5 to 70 enrolled in the Civic Ballet program, who performed in three stunning shows over the course of two days.

The performances, directed by staffer Maria Spremich, captivated an audience of a combined total of roughly 1,500 guests from South San Francisco and neighboring cities. This marked a special cherished holiday tradition for the community. The event's success highlights the dedication of the students, the program's commitment to excellence, and the overall quality pieced together by Maria, Classes Program Supervisor Veronica Ortiz, Program Coordinator Gabriella Firpo, and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Seniors Program

AARP Tax Aide Program

The Parks and Recreation Department Senior Services Program has partnered with AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program once again to offer free tax preparation services. This program is credentialed by the IRS and will be available at Roberta Cerri Teglia Center at 601 Grand Avenue. Appointments will be available for Mondays and Saturdays starting February 3 through April 12. This service is for low- and middle-income residents with preference given to senior citizens.

Anticipating high demand for this program, staff have looked into the possibility of expanding this service to other locations including the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR), but unfortunately AARP did not have the bandwidth to be able to do so. To schedule an appointment, residents may call (650) 829-3820 or email web-rec@ssf.net.

San Mateo County Community Collaboration for Children's Success

For several years, Parks and Recreation staff have participated in San Mateo County's initiative, Community Collaboration for Children's Success (CCCS). The endeavor is a multi-agency initiative of San Mateo County Health, Human Services Agency, Juvenile Probation, County Office of Education, First Five, and other local stakeholders and nonprofits. South San Francisco is one of four cities targeted by CCCS for having a great need among children and youth as well as a high level of youth planning readiness. Initiated in 2018 and with much support from the City, the group's work culminated in the development of a [Neighborhood Action Plan 2019-2024](#), with each of the target cities including South San Francisco receiving an action plan to address top goals and issues identified through community feedback. CCCS was interrupted by COVID and has since been reestablished by the County with support from El Concilio, which has been hosting nearly monthly meetings for the South San Francisco collaborative. In addition to City staff, other local stakeholders include South San Francisco Unified School District, Rise South City, Familias Tomando Acción, Bay Ed Fund, South San Francisco Education Foundation, YMCA, and more. Realizing that CCCS shared many of the same goals and stakeholders as the school district's Purposeful Partnership Community Learning Exchanges supporting the vision of their five-year strategic plan, the school district and CCCS hosted a joint meeting on November 18, 2024 to review and compare each group's priorities, as follows:

SSF CCCS Drafted Priority Statements:

- We want all youth and families to have access to basic needs and resources for quality of life.
- We want all young people to have opportunities to develop skills and experiences to pursue their goals.
- We want all youth and families to have access to affordable, timely, and culturally-responsive mental health and well-being services.

SSFUSD Purposeful Partnership Priorities/Areas of Focus:

1. Family Resource Center (partners)
 - a. Design
 - b. Vision
 - c. Collaboration
 - i. Services
 1. Mental Health/Wellness
 2. Legal Resources (Immigration Law)
 - ii. Workshops
 - d. Logistics
 - i. Possible spaces
2. Community Resources Promotores (partners)
 - a. Mapping
 - b. Cross collaboration
 - c. Communications
 - d. Legal Resources
3. School-based programming aligned to PoG aims (partners)
 - a. Learn = academic readiness
 - i. Internships

- ii. Workshops
- b. Impact = agency and community action
- c. Navigate = skills necessary for college and career as well as
 - i. Internships
 - ii. Financial literacy
 - iii. Financial Aid workshops
 - 1. DACA
- d. Thrive = mental and physical well-being, self-actualization
 - i. Counseling support
 - ii. Workshops

Monthly meetings were initially hosted at the Grand Ave. Library, then moved to the Social Hall of the Library | Parks and Recreation Center as the group grew in membership. Background information about CCCS is available at <https://www.gethealthysmc.org/community-collaboration-childrens-success>.