

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 7, 2024

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Upcoming Pre-Registered Events

The Parks and Recreation team looks forward to several events in the upcoming weeks, some of which require pre-registration. City Councilmembers are invited to register for these events by e-mailing Laura Armanino, Recreation Manager, at laura.armanino@ssf.net. More information about Parks and Recreation events is available at www.ssf.net/pandevents.

51st Annual Thanksgiving Fun Run & Oyster Point Park Phase 2C Ribbon Cutting

The Fun Run is a great opportunity for community members of all ages to stay active. In addition, participants will have the chance to see the many new amenities including a new dog park, upgraded pathways, site lighting, fitness equipment, upgraded picnic areas, seating and improved landscaping and pathways. Light refreshments will be served and the Peninsula Humane Society's mobile adoptions will be present.

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2024

Time: Ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by the race.

Location: Oyster Point Marina (Parking located at 354 Oyster Point Blvd.), near Dominic's.

Public Registration: www.ssf.net/rec-catalog

City Council Registration: Please provide your birth date and t-shirt size if you wish to participate in the run.

IPP Holiday Wreath Workshop

Community members are invited to create a beautiful fresh wreath to celebrate the holiday season. Hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department and Improving Public Places Committee, this hands-on workshop includes instruction and materials. Spots are filling fast for the in-person sessions. DIY crafters may choose to order a take home kit to construct their wreath at home.

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024

Time: [Morning session \(family-friendly\) 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.](#) | [Afternoon Session 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.](#) | Take Home Kits – various pick up times available.

Location: Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building, 781 Tennis Drive.

Public Registration: www.ssf.net/rec-catalog

City Council Registration: Please indicate which session you would like to attend.

Rentals Program Update

Community Induction Cooking Demonstration



The Community Induction Cooking Demonstration took place at LPR in the Social Hall.

On Thursday, October 24, the Department partnered with the San Mateo County Sustainability Department, the Building Decarbonization Coalition, and Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) to host a cooking demonstration to showcase the advantages of induction cooking ranges. The event was held from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and was streamed live online. Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation, welcomed attendees to begin the night. Over 125 people attended the event and received free food for attending. Chef Reina Montenegro led the presentation. She is well-known for her vegan dishes nationally.

2024 Picnic Season

The 2024 picnic season came to an end on Sunday, October 27. This season, 760 permits were issued for 17 picnic areas. Picnics are a joint effort between the Parks Division and Recreation Division teams as they coordinate to issue permits, post signs, sign in and out permit holders, and maintain each site. The picnic season runs from the first week of March through the final weekend in October annually. Permitting for the 2025 picnic season will begin on January 6, 2025.



Orange Park picnic area

Seniors Program Update

AARP Safe Driving Course

The Senior Services team partnered with AARP to provide a Safe Driving course for seniors at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. The two-day course took place on October 29 and October 30 with 20 participants in attendance. The class has been well received and staff look forward to hosting more AARP Safe Driving courses in the coming year.

Senior Showcase

On October 22, the South San Francisco Senior Showcase was hosted at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This event is organized by the Daily Journal in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. Over 25 exhibitors participated in the Community Resource Fair to provide important information to seniors. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department, Senior Services Program, and Library hosted tables at this event. In addition to resource tables, Health screenings were provided by Sonrisas Dental, University of the Pacific Audiology Department, and College of San Mateo School of Nursing. The Medical Equipment Loan Program gave away medical equipment. The Peninsula Pharmacist Association had a pharmacist present to answer questions about medications. Guitarist Dan Beaulaurier provided music during the event and there was also a seated exercise demonstration. Attendees came from all over San Mateo County to participate in this event.



Senior Showcase at LPR

Special Events Update

College and Career Fair



College and Career Fair at Serramonte Mall

Preschool Supervisor Diana Gonzalez recently attended the College and Career Fair sponsored by the South San Francisco Unified School District and the Jefferson Unified High School District at Serramonte Mall in Daly City. The event took place on October 17 from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This event was for high school students to help them gather information on employment resources, union trade schools, local community colleges, state universities, private colleges, and career opportunities with government agencies.

Halloween Extravaganza



On Saturday October 19, the Department hosted its annual Halloween Extravaganza. This event took place at Orange Memorial Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. With the aquatic center construction occurring on the former grass soccer field at Orange Memorial Park, the regular pumpkin patch was relocated to the grass area outside the Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building near the basketball courts. The pumpkins were purchased from Farmer John’s in Half Moon Bay. They delivered 250 pumpkins the morning of the event.

Families pre-registered online for the pumpkin patch. Each registered family had the opportunity to enter the pumpkin patch and select one pumpkin per family at no cost. Staff were also available to take pictures for the families and to guide them around the area. The community made several comments of gratitude for the free event and other City events.

The Halloween Extravaganza featured 13 City and co-sponsored vehicles in the Trunk or Treat, area, including the City Manager’s Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, South San Francisco Historical Society, Public Works Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Human Resources Department, Full of Fun Program, South San Francisco Mothers Club, South San Francisco Library, San Mateo County Transit Authority, and South San Francisco Youth Baseball Managers Association. Each car was decorated beautifully and had its own theme. Trunk or Treat was very popular, with well over 1,500 children participating.

Cultural Arts Program

October 2024 Northern California Public Art Administrators Meeting



Guardian of the Creek

On Friday, October 25, Cultural Arts Specialist Ericie Santos attended the meeting of the Northern California Public Art Administrators Network (NorCal PAAN) hosted by the City of Santa Rosa. The PAAN public art administrators represent a regional network of government agencies and art consultants that meet to discuss specific public art issues in their communities.

Approximately 15 participants attended representing cities throughout the Bay Area. Discussions included topics of maintenance, vandalism, and partnerships with art organizations.

Full of Fun Program Update

On Thursday, October 24, the Full of Fun Program hosted a Halloween party. There were 25 campers in attendance as well as 10 volunteers. Campers, volunteers and staff were dressed in their Halloween costumes and celebrated by participating in various games and crafts. While campers were enjoying these activities, parents participated in an information and input session on the Master Plan for Developmental Services with a representative from the California Health and Human Service Agency.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Updates

Girls on the Run

Several students in the Department's Buri Buri Elementary School After School Program are participating in Girls on the Run, a program that blends physical activity with life skill development, including managing emotions, fostering friendships, and expressing empathy. Last week they had their practice 5K run and the staff from the After School Program attended to cheer them on and provide support. Posters were created for each participant with their name. The school's principal expressed his appreciation and support:



Girls on the Run

"I just want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for you all in going the extra mile in supporting our Girls on the Run team. I heard how you were such an incredible support for them on their 5k trial run yesterday afternoon. Signs and cheering and enthusiasm were huge in supporting each of the girls and our staff. I am so proud of them all and of you all for your spontaneous and lasting support!"

Staff Highlight: Francisco Rodriguez



Francisco began working for the Parks and Recreation Department in 2014 as a Recreation Leader. During his time as a Recreation Leader, he also took on the roles of Site Lead and Science Specialist. In 2017 he was promoted to Recreation and Community Services Program Coordinator and oversaw the REAL After School Program at Los Cerritos and Martin Elementary Schools. In 2019, Francisco stepped back to a Recreation Leader position to pursue his master's degree in clinical and mental health counseling, and in 2022, Francisco was rehired as a Program Coordinator and returned to the ASES Programs.

As the Coordinator in the REAL After School Program, Francisco has developed strong relationships with the children, families, school personnel, and City staff. Children are drawn to Francisco's calm and fair demeanor, and he creates a warm

and nurturing environment. His background in mental health also gives him added insight into the children with more challenging behaviors. Francisco is a team player and is often sought out by peers for support. He is truly an asset to the City.