

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 23, 2026

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**Childcare Subsidy Funding Update**

On January 6, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) froze access to childcare and family assistance funds for Californians as well as four other states, citing concerns of fraud and misuse of funds in State administered programs. The freeze applies to three programs overseen by HHS's Administration for Children and Families (ACF): the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG).

In letters sent to the governors of these five states, the ACF shared that access to these funding streams is now paused pending further review, which impacts the following programs:

- **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF):** \$2.4 billion
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** \$7.35 billion
- **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG):** \$869 million

California receives roughly \$3.7 billion per year, of which about \$2 billion funds the TANF program.

In messages received from the Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County (4Cs), the local resource and referral agency who manages childcare subsidy, they stated there is not an immediate effect on provider payments at this time. They are actively in communication with local and State partners to confirm the scope of protections across all subsidy programs and will share clarifying information as soon as it becomes available. Information is still limited and evolving, but they are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide timely updates.

Furthermore, on January 9, 2026, California State Attorney General Rob Bonta and several other states secured a temporary restraining order blocking the federal government's attempt to freeze childcare funding.

On January 12, 2026 a federal judge granted a temporary restraining order halting the funding freeze. This order is in effect for 14 days while a longer order is considered.

Families qualify for childcare subsidy based on family size and income, as well as eligibility requirements (working, seeking employment, education or training, incapacitated, seeking permanent housing, protective services). The chart below shows the family size and income

qualifications for San Mateo County.

Family Size	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Monthly Income Limit	\$6,860	\$7,785	\$9,020	\$10,463	\$11,906	\$12,177	\$12,447

There are currently 16 children in Youth Enrichment Services whose families receive subsidy. During seasonal camps, this number increases slightly as older siblings who may be in middle school aged programs are also included in subsidy funds.

The approximate cost for these families is:

After School: \$6,704.00 per month

Spring Camp: \$3,280.00

Summer Camp: \$34,128.00

These estimates are based on the 16 children currently enrolled, assuming a schedule of after school care only. Families may choose to not enroll in all days of Spring Camp or all weeks of Summer Camp. This also does not include the possible fees for older siblings.

There are no families utilizing subsidy in Preschool and Early Learning at this time.

ASES and ELOP programs fortunately are State funded programs. Although we encourage all families to complete the meal application at the beginning of the school year, many families who have subsidy choose to continue with that support, rather than participate in ELOP. If subsidy funding is eliminated, we can have families complete the meal application and if eligible their care would be covered through ELOP, but this will only provide funding for weeks of Summer Camp.

Additionally, should any families have hardship not addressed via ELOP, ASES, 4Cs or other financial supports, they may qualify for need-based scholarships through the Department.

### **Classes Program**

#### *South San Francisco Civic Ballet – The Nutcracker*



*The Nutcracker featured 204 dancers from the Recreation program.*

On Saturday, December 20, and Sunday, December 21, the South San Francisco Civic Ballet program presented three performances of The Nutcracker at the South San Francisco High School Auditorium. The Nutcracker was led by our veteran class instructor Maria Spremich. The production featured 204 dancers from the Classes Program, ranging in ages 5 to 74. Across all three performances, the production welcomed approximately 1,310 attendees. This year the Classes Program welcomed the launch of online ticket sales, making it accessible for ticket

purchases beyond our office hours.

Maria Spremich dedicated the third and final performance to retired City Manager, Sharon Ranals. This special dedication, shared prior to the start of the show, highlighted memories of the history and growth of the South San Francisco Civic Ballet and The Nutcracker performances with Sharon's support. Maria Spremich was originally hired by Sharon in 1985.

In addition to Maria's brilliant direction, this event could not kick off without the hard work of the backstage crew consisting of approximately 10 part-time staff. One week prior to the performances, the crew worked on moving equipment, staging, lighting, technical work, and backstage performance coordination. This dedicated team worked exceptionally throughout the week to ensure everything ran smoothly on show days. Our concessions team of 10 staff members created a warm and inviting lobby for attendees with several of the team being veteran staff. The concessions team has curated a great system to ensure intermissions run smoothly. This show highlighted the comradery of the Nutcracker team, and the Department is very happy with the success of this year's performances.



*Dedicated part-time staff helped make  
The Nutcracker performances a success.*

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 11, 2026

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**Westborough Boulevard Tree Work**

As the City Council may recall, last fall, the City acquired the narrow strip of land along the eastbound shoulder of Westborough Boulevard between Olympic Drive and Oakmont Drive. Prior to the City's acquisition of this property, there had been numerous complaints and emergency issues regarding hazardous or fallen trees. Fortunately, City Council approved funding to mitigate these concerns and address basic ongoing maintenance.

Tree work will soon begin on Westborough Boulevard to remove hazardous and declining trees. In total, 36 trees of varying size will be removed, 55 stumps will be removed to improve aesthetics, and the remainder of the trees will be trimmed to remove deadwood and improve overall tree health.

Work is expected to begin on February 23 and should take approximately two weeks to be completed. The work will require a lane closure and the contractor has been instructed to start work after 9:00 a.m. to minimize traffic impacts during peak times.

This tree work will help make Westborough Boulevard more aesthetically pleasing, but also safer as many of the acquired trees have not been cared for throughout their life span.

**Building Maintenance Division Update**

*Facility Painting and Refresh*

Building Maintenance staff recently completed a much-needed interior painting project at the Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building. A lot of preparation, hard work, and long hours by Building Maintenance Craftworkers and Senior Custodians made the project successful. The refreshed space looks great, and the new colors add a warm feeling to the airy room.

Following work at the Fernekes Building, staff employed their patching and painting skills to refresh the classroom at the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center.



*Painting at the Fernekes Recreation Building and Community Learning Center*

*Flooring Repairs at Gene Mullin Community Learning Center*

Termites were recently found at the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center. Upon this discovery, staff promptly contacted a pest control contractor, who treated the area. Building Maintenance Craftworkers removed and replaced the affected wood subfloor. Following treatment and repairs, staff took the opportunity to replace the worn carpet tiles with brand-new carpeting. After the repairs were completed, the pest control technician returned to perform follow-up exterior treatments and confirmed the pests on the interior of the facility were eradicated.



*Floor repairs at the Community Learning Center*

### **Concert in the Park – Planning Update**

Traditionally held the third Saturday in September, Concert in the Park is the Department’s largest event of the year, reaching nearly 7,000 attendees in 2025. The event’s high-caliber entertainment including a roster of Grammy-award winning artists, fun activities for children and people of all ages, art vendors, community resource booths, and food trucks has become an annual tradition that the community looks forward to each year. This year, the event was slated to take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026, however, contractors that are typically employed to organize many key event logistics are unavailable on this day. Thus, the Department is holding Saturday, September 12, 2026 as an alternative event date. September 12, 2026 was the anticipated date for Festa Italiana, a newer event growing into an annual tradition in South San Francisco. Staff have discussed a trade in event dates with the Festa Italiana event organizers, the SSF Italian American Citizen’s Club, and they are amenable to the change. If members of the City Council can’t accommodate the change in date, please apprise staff.

On a related note, the 2026 Concert in the Park is ramping up to be the best event yet, with Genentech verbally committing to a \$250,000 donation towards the event in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Senior Services Program**

#### *New Class Announcement: Line Dancing*



*Line dancing class was well received by senior participants.*

The Senior Services team is thrilled to announce the launch of a new Line Dancing class at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center. This energetic and engaging class is designed to improve movement, coordination, memory, and overall fitness in a fun and supportive environment. Participants will enjoy the easy to follow steps set to a variety of music styles, making the class both enjoyable and accessible. No partner is required, and individuals of all experience and skill levels are encouraged to participate. Class is every Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. on the third floor with instructor Alice Chew. The first class was held on Wednesday, January 28 and welcomed more than 30 participants. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many participants shared how much they enjoyed the class, highlighting the easy to follow steps and the instructor’s supportive teaching style.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many participants shared how much they enjoyed the class, highlighting the easy to follow steps and the instructor’s supportive teaching style.

*New Class Announcement: Together with Music*

The Senior Services team is excited to partner with North East Medical Services (NEMS), a local non-profit community health organization, to offer a music therapy program for senior participants. The program is designed to promote happiness and well-being through music. Participants are encouraged to express themselves by singing, playing instruments, or simply enjoying the music. The program also provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who share a love for music. Music helps support memory, encourages relaxation, and enhances overall enjoyment. The program will run for eleven interactive sessions, held every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center, third floor. Sessions began on Tuesday, January 27, and will continue through Tuesday, April 14.



*Participants enjoyed the new music therapy class offered.*

*Valentines for the Troops*

On Thursday, January 15, the Senior Services team at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center hosted its annual Valentines for the Troops event. The morning began with a delicious breakfast, and a welcome by staff. The event was a tremendous success, with over 65 participants in attendance and more than 500 Valentine's cards created to be sent to deployed troops.

In addition to the cards made during the event, several volunteers contributed by creating cards at home. In total, more than 600 cards will be sent to service members. The atmosphere was joyful, and attendees were enthusiastic and happy to contribute to this meaningful cause. Teglia Center staff worked hard to prepare for the event, and everyone involved enjoyed working together in support of our troops.



*Valentines for the Troops was a successful event at the Teglia Center.*

### *Lunar New Year Senior Dance*

The annual Senior Services dance celebrating Lunar New Year takes place on Tuesday, February 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. The event will feature an exciting performance by the San Francisco Pear Lion Dance Team, along with a traditional Lion Dance performance to welcome the New Year. In addition to performances and dance activities, seniors in attendance will enjoy a special holiday lunch.

### **Cultural Arts Program**

#### *"What is Love?" Art Show Reminder of Additional Exhibit Period*

The South San Francisco Cultural Arts Commission presents an art exhibition titled, "What Is Love?" which opened on February 6 and 7. The art show received 39 visual artworks and will remain on extended exhibition through Friday, February 27. The juried exhibit explores the artist's unique perspective on love.

The gallery hours run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning February 9 through February 27. Special evening viewing takes place on Tuesday, February 24, with the gallery open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The gallery will be closed on Monday, February 16. The exhibition takes place at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR), third floor gallery. Admission is free. Information is available on the SSF Parks and Recreation Department Events page and [www.ssfca.gov/culturalarts](http://www.ssfca.gov/culturalarts).

### **Sports Program**

#### *Seventh and Eighth Grade Middle School Basketball*



*Middle school coed basketball league.*

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school basketball league for boys and girls concluded this last week. There were 75 participants, including three girls teams and six boys teams. There were a total of 11 coaches across the nine teams. In post-season play, all four eighth grade teams advanced to the championship games, with three of the four winning their championship. The eighth grade All-Star Game was held on February 5, featuring 16 selected players from formed teams.

#### *Sixth Grade Middle School Basketball Update*

A free sixth grade basketball camp for boys and girls was held on Friday, January 30, at the Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center. The camp served as an introduction for participants to meet coaches and gain a better understanding of the league. Player evaluations took place on Monday, February 2, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 55 players registered, forming six teams that will participate in the NCRL (North County Recreation League). Teams from South San Francisco will compete against other cities in the league, including Brisbane, Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and San Bruno.



Free sixth grade coed basketball camp at Terrabay Gymnasium.

**Open Gym 2026 – Terrabay Gym**

Open Gym (drop-in) sports continue at Terrabay Gym on the following days and times:

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Sport</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
Monday	Basketball	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Pickleball	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Basketball	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday	Pickleball	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday	Basketball	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday	Basketball	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	Badminton	9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
	Basketball	12:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Game ChangeHER Award Winner – Junior Giants**

On National Girls and Women in Sports Day, the Junior Giants were proud to introduce the second cohort of Game ChangeHER Award winners. Nominated by their leagues, these women are changing the game in their own way and proving that when girls are supported, entire communities grow stronger. Brooke Bayangos recently left the Parks and Recreation Department as a Sports Coordinator to move to New York, but she left her stamp on youth sports, especially promoting female athletics. Although she no longer works for the City of South San Francisco, the Department is proud to see Brooke earn the Game ChangeHER Award, and thanks her for her service.



## **Rentals Program**

### *January 2026 Indoor Private Rentals Weekends*

In addition to managing the City’s internal calendar for use of community center spaces, the Rentals Program also manages private rentals of these spaces, offering the community a space for private celebrations, meetings, and events.

January private indoor rentals started the year at a very high level, with 34 private weekend rentals across the five indoor recreation facilities: Alice Bulos Community Center, Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building, Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR) – Banquet Hall and Social Hall, and the Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center. The February 2026 event schedule was finalized with 37 private rentals during the weekends.

This level of activity would not be possible without the dedication and flexibility of the part-time recreation staff who work a variety of shifts each weekend to ensure events run smoothly and that all sites are fully prepared each Monday for City programming.



*Private facility rental at LPR*

### *One Day Homeless Count*

The County of San Mateo Human Services Agency conducts a bi-annual One Day Homeless Count and Survey to measure the number of people experiencing homelessness in shelters and in unsheltered locations. The most recent count took place in the early morning of January 29, 2026, utilizing volunteers to identify, track, and survey the unhoused population to inform long-term planning and services. South San Francisco had over 42 volunteers and began gathering at the Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building at 4:00 a.m. Recreation staff member, Mike Bennett, opened the site prior to volunteers and staff arriving at 5:00 a.m. and stayed until it concluded at 10:30 a.m.



*SMC Human Services Agency*

## **Classes Program Update**



*Participant in the newly added print making class.*

The Parks and Recreation Classes Program is halfway through the winter session with 1,461 registered participants in the program. In addition, more than 313 participants have taken part in drop-in programs such as All Abilities Music and Movement, Drop-in Tai Chi, Zumba, and Zumba Gold-Tone. This drop-in number continues to grow as the winter session progresses. Approximately 80% of registered participants are residents of South San Francisco. The Recreation Scholarship Program, a program that offers discounted fees to income-eligible individuals, supported approximately 11 class registrations. During this session, a series of new classes were introduced: Photographic Composition, Printmaking courses, and Telescope Clinics that were launched in response to the community interest after the recent Observe the Moon Night at Alta Loma Park in November. The Classes Program is now preparing for the spring session with registration beginning in late-February.

## **Aquatics Program**

### *Operations & Impact: Orange Pool*

Orange Pool continues to serve as a vital community hub, distinguishing itself through a comprehensive, multi-generational service model. Unlike other agencies that may limit operations to seasonal windows or prioritize specific user groups, Orange Pool provides robust, year-round programming, including morning and evening lap swimming, recreational swimming, exercise classes, and a critical Learn-to-Swim curriculum.

### *Community Impact and Economic Analysis*

Providing affordable access to water safety is a necessity for South San Francisco residents, which became evident during COVID with Learn-to-Swim programs becoming one of the allowable activities recognized as an essential service during a time when so many other activities were restricted. The Department acknowledges drowning prevention is a life skill, not a luxury. The Department remains committed to its core values of Enhancing the Community's Quality of Life and Recognizing Diversity, ensuring that economic factors do not become a barrier to accessing these essential safety programs.

### *New Aquatics Center: Operational Readiness and Staffing*

As the Department approaches potential summer opening of the new Orange Memorial Park Aquatics Center, staff has begun to focus on operational mobilization. A critical component of this readiness strategy is the transition from the American Red Cross to the StarGuard Elite (SGE) lifeguarding program. This strategic shift is designed to streamline staff training through a modern, scenario-based curriculum while offering transparent safety records via SGE's advanced auditing and reporting tools. As the Aquatics Program actively recruits staff to support the expanded two-pool footprint, this new standard will ensure a higher level of accountability and care. Aquatics staff are currently developing a specialized transition plan that integrates StarGuard protocols with the unique dual-pool dynamics, ensuring the team is not only staffed to capacity but fully drilled

on the specific emergency response needs of the new complex before the public opening.

### **Youth Enrichment Services (YES)**

Youth Enrichment Services provides full-day programs for families of children ages four (TK) through 12 during school breaks. Program hours of 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. allow working families a safe, fun, and educational place for their children to play, learn, and grow. During winter break 2025 the YES Winter Camp took place at Ponderosa Elementary School and served 231 children. Of those children served, 85 are part of the South San Francisco Unified School District's Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), a grant program allowing these students to attend camp at no cost. The Winter Camp theme this year was Winter Wonderland. Through art, science, cooking, games, free-choice periods, and playground, children are provided with a wide variety of experiences that are not only fun but also allow them to learn through play. Some of the skill developments the curriculum focuses on are creativity, fine and gross motor skills, social-skills, decision making, and self-regulation. Special events were also included such as the New Year's Eve countdown balloon drop and movie day.



*Winter camp served over 231 children.*



City of South San Francisco  
Cultural Arts Program  
presents



# What is Love Art Show

Opens on Friday, February 6 | 6:00PM-8:00PM

## Enjoy a music presentation by SOUTH CITY FOLK JAM

The gathering of enthusiastic musicians will play select tunes from a repertoire of diverse musical styles. Selections may include old-timey folk, country, or contemporary rock. The 20-minute program begins at approximately 6:50 p.m. Visit [www.southcityfolkjam.com](http://www.southcityfolkjam.com) for information on the band.



[ssfca.gov/panrevents](http://ssfca.gov/panrevents)

### 2026 EXHIBIT OPENS

Friday, February 6 | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, February 7 | 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Weekday Gallery Period

Monday through Friday | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
February 9 - 27 (Closed Monday, February 16)

### Evening Viewing

Tuesday, February 24 | 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### LIBRARY | PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER

901 Civic Campus Way, SSF  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Gallery Room #321

### ADMISSION IS FREE

### INFORMATION

SSF Parks and Recreation Department  
[ercie.santos@ssfca.gov](mailto:ercie.santos@ssfca.gov)  
(650) 829-3810

**Art Online Entry Deadline**  
January 22, 2026

[www.ssfca.gov/CulturalArts](http://www.ssfca.gov/CulturalArts)

