



SOUTH CITY TODAY

AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY: OUR STORY, OUR COMMUNITY

As America marks 250 years, South San Francisco is celebrating what makes our community strong: service, participation, and pride in where we live.

From neighborhood improvements to community programs and citywide events, this special edition highlights how South City continues to carry forward the values that shape our nation right here at home.



A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Celebrate our country's 250th anniversary in South City, and join a special July 4 community celebration.



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

From infrastructure to childcare, South City is building for the next generation.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

South City is making streets safer for students and families near four local schools.

These efforts reflect South City's commitment to unity, resilience, and innovation, ensuring our community continues to grow stronger, cleaner, and more connected.



FROM INDUSTRIAL ROOTS TO A COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION

As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, South San Francisco's story reflects the same values that have shaped America: hard work, innovation, and a community built by real people.

Founded in 1908, South San Francisco quickly earned its nickname as "The Industrial City," with industries like steel, shipbuilding, and manufacturing helping shape both the local economy and the region. The iconic Sign Hill stands as a lasting symbol of that legacy, visible proof of the city's proud beginnings.

But South City has always been more than industry. Over the decades, generations of families from diverse backgrounds have made South San Francisco their home, each contributing to a shared story rooted in resilience, opportunity, and community. Neighborhoods grew, schools expanded, and local traditions took shape, reflecting the many cultures that define the city today.

In the years that followed, South San Francisco evolved into a global leader in biotechnology, now recognized as the Birthplace of Biotechnology, while continuing to honor its industrial roots.

Today, South San Francisco is a vibrant, diverse community where more than 65,000 residents live, work, and build our futures. It is a city where innovation meets tradition, and where the spirit of community continues to guide its growth.

Learn More: Explore our rich history with an interactive timeline, walking tour maps, and more at www.ssfca.gov/history



Special Birthday Shoutout

This year is also a milestone birthday for many organizations who serve our South City community or are based in South City:

- **100 years:** California Water Service (Cal Water)
- **100 years:** United Airlines
- **50 years:** Genentech
- **50 years:** SamTrans
- **50 years:** La Tapatia



CELEBRATE WITH US IN SOUTH CITY

South San Francisco is coming together for a year-long celebration of our history, our community, and the values that bring us together.

Throughout the year, residents can take part in a wide range of events that reflect the many stories, cultures, and traditions that shape both our city and our country - from educational exhibits and author talks to family-friendly gatherings and community celebrations.

These events are designed to do more than commemorate history; they're an opportunity to connect with one another, learn something new, and take pride in the community we share.



JOIN US THIS JULY 4TH

The celebration will come to life on Saturday, July 4, with a special community event in downtown South San Francisco.

Residents of all ages are invited to enjoy:

- A community parade from Orange Memorial Park to City Hall starting at 10:00 a.m.
- A festive picnic and family-friendly activities right on Grand Avenue
- Entertainment, games, and opportunities to support local businesses



Upcoming Events

From spring through fall, our nation's 250th anniversary celebration continues with events across the city:

- **July 4:** 250th Celebration Parade and Picnic
- **July 4:** Patriotic Pet Costume Contest
- **July 17:** Movie Night in the Park and Field Day
- **August 21:** Movie Night in the Park
- **September 11:** Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11
- **September 12:** Concert in the Park
- **September 17-23:** Constitution Week at the Library



Join Us: View more events happening all year long at www.ssfca.gov/America250



PLANNING FOR A RESILIENT SHORELINE

The City of South San Francisco has launched a new study to help protect the Bay shoreline from sea level rise while improving how people move through the area east of Highway 101.

The Shoreline Protection and Connectivity Project will explore ways to reduce flood risk, improve pedestrian and bicycle access, and strengthen connections between jobs, recreation, and nearby neighborhoods. The effort also helps protect critical infrastructure, including the Water Quality Control Plant.

As part of the study, the City will work with experts, partner agencies, and the community to develop long-term, science-based solutions that support both environmental resilience and economic growth. This work is supported through multiple state grants focused on climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure.

Learn More: Get a better understanding about our work to address sea level rise at www.ssfca.gov/shoreline



MAKING EL CAMINO REAL A SAFE STREET FOR ALL

Thank you to all who shared input on the El Camino Real Mobility Plan. We took your input and developed three design options for the future of El Camino Real. City staff will be taking the three design options to City Council for consideration in July. Each option incorporates:

- Wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian crossings across El Camino Real
- Street trees and landscaping on the sidewalks and median
- Maintaining on-street parking in key locations on the east side

The goal of the El Camino Real Mobility Plan is to design a safer, more comfortable, and more enjoyable experience for people using all modes of transportation on El Camino Real, whether walking, bicycling, driving, or taking the bus. Once completed, this City-led project will fold into the countywide Grand Boulevard Initiative led by SamTrans.

Learn More: You helped shape three design options. Explore the project you helped influence at www.ssfca.gov/ECRMobility



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City of South San Francisco is constructing roadway improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school through the Safe Routes to School 2026 Project. This effort focuses on four local schools:

- Parkway Heights Middle School
- Alta Loma Middle School
- Buri Buri Elementary School
- Ponderosa Elementary School

The project is based on walk audits at each school and extensive outreach with school communities in 2023 and 2024. Construction is expected to begin between Summer 2026 and early 2027.



Learn More: View planned improvements at www.ssfca.gov/SafeRoutes



E-BIKES & SCOOTERS: RIDE SAFE IN SOUTH CITY

E-bikes and scooters are a fun and convenient way to get around but it's important to know the rules and ride safely to protect yourself and others. Whether you're commuting, heading to school, or just out for a ride, a few simple habits can make a big difference.

Know before you ride:

- Follow the same rules of the road as cars. Stop at signs and signals
- Ride in bike lanes when available
- Always yield to pedestrians
- Wear a helmet (required for riders under 18, strongly recommended for all)
- Make yourself visible, especially at night

E-bike basics:

- Class 1 & 2 e-bikes are allowed on most bike paths
- Class 3 e-bikes are faster and have more restrictions. Riders must be 16+ to operate a Class 3 e-bike

Scooters & motorcycles:

- Electric scooters must be operated with care and in accordance with traffic laws
- Motorcycles require proper licensing and safety gear

A few extra tips:

- Slow down in busy areas like parks and sidewalks
- Watch for opening car doors and turning vehicles
- Stay alert. Remove headphones and avoid distractions while riding

Learn More: Riding safely helps keep our streets welcoming and accessible for everyone. Learn the rules at www.ssfca.gov/EBikeSafety



NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW: VLF FUNDING UPDATE

South San Francisco and cities across San Mateo County are facing a growing shortfall in funding tied to property tax in lieu of vehicle license fees (VLF). In the past, the State replaced this funding. But since FY 2020-2021, that replacement funding has fallen short. The State had been making San Mateo County cities whole each fiscal year until FY 2023-24, when we only received 2/3 of what was owed in FY 2025-26. As a result, South San Francisco is currently owed about \$6.8 million by the State.

Why this matters:

This funding helps support core City services like police, fire, parks and recreation, and the library. Without a long-term fix from the State,

the City may need to consider new funding options or service reductions in the future.

What's being done:

The City is working with San Mateo County and State leaders to push for a permanent solution and will continue to keep the community informed.

Learn More and Stay

Updated: Visit www.smcfairfunding.org for more information on how this impacts you, and what actions you can take to help resolve this issue.



ORANGE MEMORIAL PARK AQUATIC CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction of the Orange Memorial Park Aquatic Center continues with significant progress over the past couple of months. Recent efforts are evident on the exterior and interior of the building.

March–May Highlights:

- Exterior wall weatherproofing, vapor barriers, and insulation are nearing completion
- Installation of wood cladding on the building is underway
- Metal cladding has been installed on the building facade
- Exterior painting and stucco finishes are nearly complete
- Nearly all swimming pool mechanical equipment has been installed
- Drywall in the lobby, locker-rooms, activity room and offices is complete
- Locker-room tile installation is nearly complete



- Grading to replace the lawn area between the Aquatic Center and Colma Creek will start in the coming weeks

We anticipate the new Aquatic Center to open later this year. We appreciate the community's continued patience as this state-of-the-art facility takes shape.

Learn More: Watch the Construction Livecam and learn more about the project at www.ssfca.gov/newpool



WHERE COMMUNITY COMES TO LIFE

One of the most powerful ways we celebrate our community is by showing up for each other.

On July 18, South San Francisco is once again coming together for another Touch A Truck event to support local families through the City's Diaper Donation Drive hosted by the South San Francisco Fire Department and IAFF Local 1507. In partnership with Genentech, the drive helps provide essential supplies to families with young children because something as simple as a diaper can make a meaningful difference. This year, our Fire Department set out a goal to collect 10,000 diapers by the Touch a Truck event. The event is free for all, and we ask those who are able, please bring your diaper donations to the event!

You may also donate new, unopened diaper packages at designated drop-off locations throughout the city. All donations are provided to the YMCA Community Resource Center who distribute them to local families in need.



Get Involved

Join us at the Touch A Truck event on July 18 at Fire Station 61 or donate diapers at donation bins located at:

- Fire Administration - 480 N Canal Street
- Station 64 - 2350 Galway Drive
- Station 65 - 1151 SSF Drive
- NEW: Library | Parks & Recreation Center – 901 Civic Campus Way

Get Involved: Learn more about the Diaper Donation Drive at
www.ssfca.gov/DiaperDonations



GET INVOLVED BY VOLUNTEERING

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to support your community by volunteering. Adopt a Storm Drain, join our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), become a tutor, or Sign Hill Steward – there are several ways you can plug in and make a positive impact.

Get Involved: Explore volunteer opportunities at
www.ssfca.gov/volunteer





City Manager's Office
City Hall
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South San Francisco, CA 94080

2026 CITY COUNCIL

Mark Addiego, Mayor (District 1)
Mark Nagales, Vice Mayor (District 2)
Buenaflor Nicolas, Councilmember (District 3)
James Coleman, Councilmember (District 4)
Eddie Flores, Councilmember (District 5)
Rosa Govea Acosta, City Clerk
Frank Riso, City Treasurer

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"I VOTED IN SOUTH CITY" & "FUTURE SOUTH CITY VOTER" STICKER CONTEST

South San Francisco artists are invited to help design stickers for the November election. This is a chance for residents of all ages to be part of the democratic process and leave their mark on a major civic moment.

The City of South San Francisco will launch two community sticker design contests:

- "I Voted in SSF" for adults ages 18 and older
- "Future SSF Voter" for children and teens ages 17 and younger

Residents may submit one original, politically neutral design featuring only the contest phrase. Designs may be hand-drawn or digital, but A.I.-generated artwork is not allowed. All entries must fit within a 2-inch circle and be

submitted as PNG files.

The contest is open to South San Francisco residents only, though voting will be open to everyone.

Online and in-person submissions will be accepted through Parks & Recreation Administration and the City Manager's Office at City Hall.

Learn More: See contest guidelines and submission information at www.ssfca.gov/IVoted2026

