

February 2024



Our monthly news & updates

[Visit our Website!](#)

A message from Kevin Williams SSF Chamber of Commerce Treasurer and Board of Trustees Member

Dear Members and Community,

It is with great humility and honor that I embrace the role of Director and Treasurer at the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Working with an exceptional and diverse board team is a privilege, and I am deeply committed to this responsibility. My goal is to actively promote and represent our members' interests in South San Francisco, a city celebrated for its rich, diverse heritage.



Our city's journey began with the Southern Pacific Railroad completion in 1907, making South San Francisco a hub for industrial growth. This led to the city's incorporation in 1908 and the establishment of our Chamber of Commerce in 1913. Known as "South San Francisco The Industrial City," a title immortalized by the famous Sign Hill in 1923, our city became a beacon of opportunity, attracting immigrants worldwide. My own great-grandparents were among those who journeyed from Ireland and Italy, eventually founding a small produce business here. The founding of Genentech in 1976 marked another milestone, positioning South San Francisco as the cradle of biotechnology and attracting numerous biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Looking ahead, the prospects for both large and small businesses in South San Francisco are promising. A colleague aptly described our city as 'The Industrious City,' a testament to our community's resilience and hard work.

I'm the operations manager for California Water Service (Cal Water) Bayshore district which serves the Cities of San Carlos, San Mateo and South San Francisco. As the largest regulated American water utility west of the Mississippi River, Cal Water serves 496,400 customer connections through 23 districts throughout the state. We also have subsidiaries in Washington, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Texas. The partnership between Cal Water and the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is rooted in a shared commitment to community development and sustainability. Cal Water's collaboration with the Chamber reflects our dedication to supporting local businesses, fostering economic vitality, and contributing to the overall health and prosperity of the communities we serve. This partnership stands as a testament to our belief in the power of working together to create a thriving, sustainable South San Francisco.

As a Chamber Director, I am dedicated to honoring our rich past while forging a path towards a dynamic future. I am eager to engage with all of you, understanding your challenges and addressing your concerns.

Together, let's shape a thriving, inclusive future for South San Francisco.

Warm regards,
Kevin Williams

A Message from the CEO of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



A New Chapter for SSF Chamber - Forward Together

Dear Members and Community Partners,

I hope this message finds you well and thriving. As we continue to navigate through the year, I'm filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead for the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, now in its 110th year of serving our vibrant community.

A Retreat for Renewal and Growth

Recently, our Board of Directors had the privilege of convening a strategic retreat at the Genentech campus, an event made possible by Genentech's generous hosting. This gathering was not only a testament to our collaborative spirit but also a pivotal moment for the Chamber. Together, we delved into profound discussions, brainstorming sessions, and planning activities that have laid the groundwork for a revitalized mission, a clearer vision, and updated bylaws. Our sincere gratitude goes to Genentech for their support in facilitating this milestone event.

The retreat's outcomes are set to propel our Chamber into new heights, with a strong focus on inclusivity, transparency, and forward-thinking. As we refine our strategies and operational framework, our aim is to be more aligned with the needs and aspirations of our members and the broader community we serve.

Embracing Our Future, Honoring Our Past

As we embark on this journey of transformation, we are also mindful of the rich tapestry of history and culture that shapes our community. This February, as we celebrate **Black History Month**, we honor the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation's history and within our own community. Let us take this opportunity to reflect, learn, and engage in conversations that enrich our understanding and appreciation of this essential part of American heritage.

Valentine's Celebrations and Supporting Local Businesses

With **Valentine's Day** around the corner, I encourage you to express your love and appreciation by supporting our local businesses. Whether planning a staycation at one of our exceptional local hotels, exploring dining options across a myriad of cuisines, indulging in chocolates and sweets from See's Candies or TinyB's, or simply choosing to shop locally, your support makes a significant difference. By choosing to dine, shop, and stay local, we strengthen our community's economic foundation and contribute to its vibrancy.

Stay Connected and Engaged

The success of our Chamber and the effectiveness of our initiatives rely heavily on your participation and feedback. We eagerly invite you to share your special events, promotions, and stories with us. Your contributions not only enrich our collective experience but also allow us to showcase the dynamism and diversity of our business community on social media and beyond.

As we move forward, remember that our ability to support you is amplified by your engagement and support in return. Together, we can achieve remarkable things.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and community!

Warmest regards,

Mary Prem

CEO, South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Exclusive Invitation: **Sunset Soiree at Skyline!**

Dear Chamber Members,

We are thrilled to invite you to an exclusive collaborative mixer hosted by the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Skyline College. This special event will be a wonderful opportunity to connect and network with fellow chamber members, key stakeholders, and government leaders in a breathtaking setting.

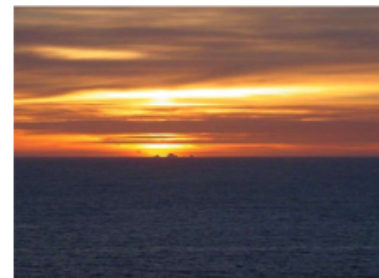
Date: Thursday February 8th, 2024
Location: **Farallon Room**, Skyline College, 3300 College Drive, San Bruno, CA
Time: Sunset Session 4:30pm to 7:00pm

Enjoy a Sunset Over the Pacific Ocean! This mixer is not just an event; it's an experience. Imagine engaging in meaningful conversations with influential community members, all while witnessing the magnificent sunset over the Pacific Ocean. It's the perfect backdrop to foster connections and build lasting relationships.

Limited Space – RSVP Today! Due to the exclusive nature of this event, space is limited. We encourage you to secure your spot as soon as possible by RSVPing via email to info@ssfchamber.com. Don't miss your chance to be part of this unique gathering – register today!

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of networking, collaboration, and scenic beauty.

Warm regards,
SSF Chamber of Commerce Team



PURE STRATEGY

NO FLUFF, ONLY RESULTS

THE #1 DIGITAL AGENCY IN 2023

We've partnered with the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to offer you some amazing deals for 2024



OFFICIAL PARTNER



WHY WE ARE THE BEST?

We've built most of the sites and apps you use on the internet. Google, Meta, Tiktok, Microsoft, and Samsung are our partners. We are the preferred vendor for their website updates, automations, research, and content. You'll find comfort in an experienced team handling your website and content.

OUR PACKAGES

"Everything you need" - 3 Page Website (\$900)

Home Page - Menu - Contact us

This offering is perfect for restaurants or small businesses that need something sharp to generate business

"Let's Go Viral" - Instagram Content (\$1000/month)

We'll create 30 posts a month and schedule them to your instagram.

*This is ideal if you want to bring attention to your restaurant. We've created viral posts for brands that have brought in over **1 billion** in impressions. To put it into perspective, 1 viral video = 100,000 impressions, if just 5% of those people visit your restaurant you just gained 5,000 new customers.*

OUR CLIENTS



TikTok



EMAIL US

BUSINESS@TAPFORINSIGHT.COM

PURESTRATEGY.ONLINE

Kiwanis
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

CARIBBEAN
Night
CELEBRATING OUR CLUB'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY, MARCH 22
ENTERTAINMENT BY DJ TROY

**\$75 PER PERSON * 6 PM NO-HOST COCKTAILS * 7 PM BUFFET DINNER
RAFFLES * SILENT AUCTION * SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO ELKS LODGE
920 STONEGATE DRIVE, SSF

TICKETS:
SSFKIWANISCN2024.EVENTBRITE.COM
RSVP DEADLINE: MARCH 13TH

OR MAIL CHECKS TO: KIWANIS CLUB OF SSF, P.O. BOX 292,
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94083

CONTACT KIWANIS PRESIDENT, JEANNE RAMIREZ, FOR MORE
INFORMATION AT MGRJMR@AOL.COM OR 650-544-1170

**FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT LOCAL YOUTH &
FAMILY CHARITIES** WWW.SSFKIWANIS.ORG

Board of Directors Retreat: Shaping the Future Together

In January, the Board of Directors gathered for a pivotal retreat at the Genentech campus, marking a significant moment for strategic foresight and alignment. **Leah McLaughlin** from

Skyline College graciously served as the moderator, guiding our discussions with expertise and insight.

This retreat was not just a meeting; it was a commitment to excellence, compliance, and forward-thinking. Our focus was on comprehensive strategic planning to ensure our operations are compliant and efficient and to pave the way for innovative future initiatives. It was a time for reflection, ideation, and setting a course that aligns with our mission while adapting to the evolving needs of our members and community.

The outcomes of this retreat are set to influence the Chamber's direction, ensuring we remain at the forefront of advocacy, support, and economic development. Stay tuned for exciting updates as we implement these progressive plans.

The outcomes of this retreat are set to influence the Chamber's direction, ensuring we remain at the forefront of advocacy, support, and economic development. Stay tuned for exciting updates as we implement these progressive plans.

Together, we are embarking on a journey to not only meet but exceed the expectations of those we serve, making our Chamber a beacon of leadership and community engagement.





February is American Heart Month

Almost 80% of heart attacks are preventable: follow these tips to keep your heart healthy.

While heart attacks are common and incredibly scary, many of them are preventable. If you focus on practicing healthy habits, you are much more likely to keep your heart healthy, with the goal of avoiding the number one worldwide cause of death for adults. Here are four areas that are the most vital to maintaining heart health:

Don't smoke. People who smoke are 2 - 4 times more likely to experience heart disease than people who don't smoke. Smoking can damage the lining of your arteries, which can ultimately result in chest pain, arrhythmias, heart attacks and heart failure.

Maintain a healthy and balanced diet. There are a lot of healthy choices available, especially if you take the time to plan your meals ahead of time. Be sure to eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, skinless poultry and fish, nuts, and beans. And moderation is key when it comes to saturated fats, sodium, and sugar.

Exercise regularly. Try to get 150 minutes of moderate physical activity (i.e. brisk walking) each week (which is only about 21 minutes a day). If you're able, rotate in some vigorous activity such as running, swimming, biking, or hiking uphill.

Maintain a healthy weight. If you eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, and avoid smoking, you're more likely to maintain a healthy weight. And maintaining a healthy weight contributes to your overall health and wellness.

[Wellness coaching is available](#) at no cost for Kaiser Permanente members to manage your weight, quit tobacco, reduce stress, get more active, or make healthier food choices.

Some additional tips for preventing heart disease are:

- Maintain a healthy blood pressure, and blood sugar, cholesterol and triglyceride levels
- Limit alcohol intake (one drink a day or less)
- Manage stress with helpful tools like meditation, yoga, massage, or breathing exercises
- Seek help for concerns with depression or mental health

Enjoy February – be helpful, be healthy, and be heart strong,

Edward Kao, MD
Physician-in-Chief
Kaiser Permanente South San Francisco Medical Center



CENTENNIAL WAY PARK SOUTH GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

Saturday, February 3, 2024
9am - 11am

Location: Centennial Way Trail at Spruce Ave, SSF
Event Parking: Bimbo Bakeries - 264 S Spruce Ave.

Join us to celebrate the start of construction of
Centennial Way Park South.
Skate space, bike park, playground, outdoor
classroom, pollinator garden, and more - coming soon!

Activities:

- Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Tree Planting
- Trail Clean-up



RSVP:

<https://forms.office.com/g/KBvbdSUraC>

www.ssf.net/parkprojects | (650) 829-3800 | web-rec@ssf.net

Friendly reminder to Chamber Members:

Have you changed your contact information, email
address, or phone numbers?

Please provide the SSF Chamber of Commerce with
your information to keep our website
up to date.



You can email any changes to info@ssfchamber.com



Announcing the 10th Annual South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

It's a time of celebration and pride for the South San Francisco community!

Marking a decade of commitment to educational excellence, the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the 10th Annual Scholarship Awards through its Education Foundation. The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (EIN: 85-2930060), a 501(c)(3) entity, continues its mission to enhance and support educational programs and opportunities within the boundaries of the South San Francisco Unified School District.

Our Foundation's Board and officers are dedicated to selecting "qualified" students for these scholarships, providing a stepping stone for those pursuing university, college, or vocational education. This initiative is a reality thanks to the unwavering support and generosity of our local business sponsors. Your contribution of \$1,000.00 or more not only offers financial assistance to deserving high school students but also encourages them to bring their newfound skills back to the community that fostered their growth.

This year, we're focusing on high school seniors residing in South San Francisco, embarking on their journey to higher education. The rigorous application process ensures that the scholarships are awarded to the most deserving students. Last year, we were proud to support 30 ambitious students, and this was possible because of contributions from businesses like yours.

A highlight of this program is our 10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon, where we celebrate the achievements of our scholars. We cordially invite all our scholarship sponsors to this event to present the awards to the students personally. It's also a fantastic opportunity for your business to gain visibility through media and printed materials related to the scholarship program.

To participate in this landmark initiative, please make your check payable to the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, noting "Scholarship Fund 501(c)(3)," and send it to us at 213 Linden Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce at (650) 588-1911. We are grateful for your consideration and support.

Warm regards,
Kevin Williams
Chairman, Education Scholarship Committee



AC Hotel San Francisco Airport
1333 Veterans Blvd,
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: 650.238.2951

acsanfrancisco.frontdesk@otohotels.com



You can RSVP and pay for our events by going to the calendar section and clicking on the event you want to attend. Registration is for SSF Chamber members.

*Not a Chamber member yet?
Contact the Chamber at
info@ssfchamber.com
or visit www.ssfchamber.com*

Follow us on [Facebook](#) & Instagram for the latest Chamber news.

Calendar of Events

- February - Black History Month - on going events at the Library Parks and Rec
- 2/11 - Superbowl Sunday - GO NINERS!
- 2/14 - City Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 2/19 - Offices Closed for President's Day
- 2/28 - City Council Meeting 6:30pm

South San Francisco Chamber Member Benefit

Did you know as one of the many benefits of being our member that you can submit your events for Chamber approval through our monthly newsletter, or social media outlets? Once approved, it will be listed on our [event calendar](#)!



Comerica Bank

Meenu Sharma

401 Grand Ave
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: (650) 871-7431

Email: mlsharma@comerica.com

<https://locations.comerica.com/location/south-san-francisco>

Rotaplast International

Daniel DeSanto

50 S. Linden Ave
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Tel: (415) 252-1111

Email: daniel@rotaplast.org

Web: <https://rotaplast.org/>



Your support is truly appreciated!

ABM Industries (December 2004)
Al-Tone Overhead Door, Inc. (January 2000)
Amani San (September 2020)
Ben Tre Restaurant (September 2020)
BWF Consulting Engineers (December 1986)
Center for Behavioral Safety, LLC (February 2020)
City Cabling (February 2014)
El Camino Florist (January 2016)
G. Banderas/Farmers Agency (April 2000)
Grand Ave Hardware (November 2012)
Hawi Hawaiian BBQ (September 2020)
Kiwanis Club of SSF October 2000)
Morrow Service (February 1995)
Physique Magnifique Fitness Training Center (January 2019)
SAMCEDA (February 1997)
Scott Buschman Photography (January 1999)
Sonesta Select San Francisco Airport Oyster Point (June 2000)
South San Francisco Rotary Club (January 1994)
STRIPE (February 2021)
The Back Doctor (November 2006)
The San Francisco Peninsula (September 2022)

Legislative Watch List

We take care of politics so you can take care of your business

Chairman Circle Members

Chairman's Circle members receive benefits above and beyond typical membership, with the highest visibility at Chamber events and in publications

Chairman Circle - GOLD MEMBER



Chairman Circle - SILVER MEMBERS



Chairman Circle - BRONZE MEMBERS



2023 Board Officers

Board of Directors

Chamber Personnel

President
Olga Garcia
CG Moving Company

Vice President
Sailesh Mehra
SM8

Treasurer
Kevin Williams
California Water Service

Ex-Officio City Manager
Sharon Ranals

Bill Benavides
BLT Construction

David Huddleston
BWP Grosvenor Hotel

Daniela Jonguitud
Chajinel Home Care Services

Keri Kirby
Sitike Counseling Center

Suzanne Lee
Genentech

Natalia Morales
Kilroy Realty Corporation

Christina Ng
Grand Palace Restaurant

Shetal Patel
Hampton Inn SFO

Pravin Punjiya
Fairfield Inn by Marriott SFO

Kevin Worth
Kaiser Permanente

Mary Prem
CEO

Arlene Dozier
Administrative Assistant

Annie Distefano
Office Assistant

Controller
Ivone Chanu