

October 2025



Our monthly news & updates

[Visit our Website!](#)

JOIN US FOR
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
**ANNUAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE
AWARDS GALA**

OCTOBER **16** 4:30PM

Celebrate the businesses and leaders
who make South City thrive.

Event Program:
4:30 PM – Reception (No Host Bar)
5:15 PM – Dinner & Doors Open

\$150 – SSF Chamber Member
\$175 – Non-Chamber Member
\$200 – All tickets purchased after 9/30/2025
No tickets sold at the door. Tickets are non-refundable, but
transferable. Reservations required/assigned seating.

South San Francisco Conference Center
255 South Airport Blvd, South City

Dress Code: Gala/Business Formal

For tickets:
Visit: www.ssfchamber.com

 **Get Your Tickets before Tuesday 11/14**

for the Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala

This is a ticketed event. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Reserve your spot now for South San Francisco's biggest night of the year...the Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala and Installation on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the South San Francisco Conference Center.

Voting is closed, and the results are in. Come find out if your favorites won and celebrate the best of South City. Enjoy an evening filled with networking, great food, fine wine, and live entertainment.

We'll honor **Kaiser Permanente's 80 years of service** and celebrate the retirement of **City Manager Sharon Ranals, recognizing her 42 years** of dedication.

Hosted by Supervisor Jackie Speier and former Chamber President Tony Clifford, this unforgettable night also includes the installation of our new Board of Directors and Ambassadors.

Event Details

Thursday, October 16, 2025 | 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM

South San Francisco Conference Center

 Tickets, Donation and Info

Call: 650-588-1911

Email: info@ssfchamber.com

Website: [2024 Business Excellence](#)

Join us for a night of celebration, connection, and community pride. Don't wait...tickets are going fast!

[Buy your Tickets Here](#)

A Message from the Desk of Mary Prem

CEO of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

This month we celebrate the rich culture, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit of our Hispanic community. Their contributions continue to shape South San Francisco, from the restaurants that flavor our city to the small businesses that drive innovation and opportunity.

It has been a busy and exciting season at the Chamber. Our team has been hard at work planning the **Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala**, where we will honor businesses that inspire, lead, and give back. We received more than 400 votes from the community to determine this year's winners, and we cannot wait to celebrate with you. It will be an unforgettable evening of recognition, good food, and good company.

Our most popular event, **Taste of South San Francisco**, is coming up on November 6. This event always sells out, so get your tickets early and come hungry.

We are also excited to welcome a dozen new **Chamber Ambassadors** who have jumped right in, attending mixers, meeting business owners, and representing the Chamber in the community. Their energy and outreach make a huge difference, and we are grateful for their commitment.

If you would like to spotlight your business on our social channels, reach out to us. It is a great way to share your story and connect with new customers.

As we head into the busy holiday season, here are a few business reminders:

- **Plan your promotions early.** Think about creative ways to attract local shoppers, such as bundle offers, loyalty perks, or cross-promotions with neighboring businesses.
- **Engage online.** A quick post or short video update can keep your business top of mind.
- **Network intentionally.** Attend at least one Chamber event this month; you never know where your next partnership will come from.

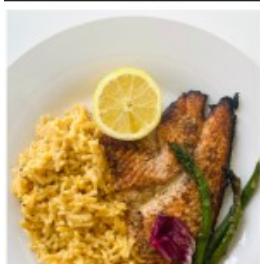
Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber and our community.
Together, we are building a stronger and more connected South San Francisco.

With gratitude,
Mary



TASTE OF SSF

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6TH
LIBRARY PARKS & RECREATION CENTER
901 CIVIC CAMPUS WAY, SSF
12:00 PM-2:00 PM
\$65 PER PERSON



[Get your Tickets Today!](#)

Join Us to Learn About Your Legal Obligations Under Cal Savers



CalSavers

WORKSHOP FOR NONPROFITS AND ALL SMALL BUSINESSES
IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Monday, October 20, 2025 | 4:00PM - 5:00PM
Burlingame Community Center in Burlingame

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Under California law, all employers with at least one employee must offer a retirement savings program or facilitate access to the *CalSavers Retirement Savings Program*.

The deadline to register is Wednesday, December 31, 2025 (for those *not already* offering a qualified retirement plan).

Join us for an informative and engaging session to learn about *CalSavers*, California's retirement savings program. You'll discover how it can benefit your organization and employees, ensure compliance with state law, and have the opportunity to ask questions directly and register your organization for *CalSavers* if you choose.

The *Commission on the Status of Women* is here to support you through this important transition. *CalSavers* is a key step toward expanding access to retirement savings (especially for employees of small organizations) and helps address the wealth gap that disproportionately impacts women.



Register for the Event:
bit.ly/4pRFbqv
[ONSITE REGISTRATION
IS ALSO AVAILABLE]



This workshop is a collaborative effort by the Burlingame/SFO Chamber of Commerce, the City of Burlingame, *Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County*, CalSavers, and SAMCEDA, South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is designed especially for small businesses in San Mateo County.



To learn more, please visit:
bit.ly/48wCfta

In Memoriam



In Memory of Former Mayor Pedro Gonzalez

We honor the life and legacy of Former Mayor Pedro Gonzalez, a dedicated public servant and cherished member of the South San Francisco community.

Pedro's decades of service left a lasting mark on our city. He was a strong advocate for education, public safety, and cultural inclusion, and he approached his work with humility, integrity, and compassion. Beyond his years in office, Pedro was a mentor, a friend, and a tireless supporter of local businesses and families.

His leadership helped shape the South San Francisco we know today. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. His contributions and spirit of service will be remembered for years to come.

**RIP Gus Shihadeh
Former Board Member and
Chamber Ambassador**



In Memory of Gus Shihadeh

We remember Gus Shihadeh, beloved community member, former Chamber Board Member and Ambassador, and one of the proud owners of Amoura Restaurant in South San Francisco.

Gus was a generous partner, a kind friend, and a strong supporter of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Through Amoura, he helped create a welcoming space where people gathered to share good food and conversation. His warmth, integrity, and commitment to community made a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Shihadeh family and the Amoura team. Gus's legacy of service, hospitality, and connection will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Chamber Connects at Concert in the Park

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce had a wonderful time connecting with the community at this year's Concert in the Park. The lively event brought together families, friends, and local businesses for an afternoon of music, food, and fun.

A big thank you to Board Members **Suzanne Lee** and **Cesar Dominguez**, who also serves as Vice President and Chief Ambassador, along with ambassadors **Lydia Pomposo** and **Astrid Rivera**, for representing the Chamber and engaging with attendees at our booth. Their energy and enthusiasm helped create meaningful connections with the community.

Events like Concert in the Park remind us how strong and vibrant our South San Francisco community truly is. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next gathering.



Chamber Joins Cultura Fest Window Decorating Walk

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce joined the Cultura Festival Committee and **Mayor Eddie Flores** for a lively walk along Grand Avenue to recognize businesses participating in the Best Decorated Window Contest.

Board President **Dani Fandino**, Vice President **Cesar Dominguez**, Chamber staff **Arlene** and **Mary**, and several Chamber Ambassadors joined in the celebration, visiting local storefronts and presenting prizes to the winners.

The colorful displays showcased creativity, community pride, and the cultural richness that makes South San Francisco special. The Chamber thanks all the participating businesses for helping bring Grand Avenue to life and supporting this vibrant community tradition.



Chamber Celebrates at Festa Italiana

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce joined the community in celebrating *Festa Italiana* at Orange Memorial Park, a beloved annual event honoring Italian heritage, food, and family.

Board President **Dani Fandino**, Mayor **Eddie Flores**, **Stacey Wagner** from Kaiser Permanente, and friends gathered to enjoy delicious food, live music, classic cars, and local vendors. The event brought together neighbors and visitors alike for a day filled with tradition, laughter, and community spirit.

The Chamber is proud to support events like *Festa Italiana* that highlight the rich cultural diversity and togetherness that make South San Francisco such a special place to live and work.





South San Francisco

2025 STATE *of the* CITY

Luncheon

An event you don't want to miss!

Mayor Eddie Flores
joined by **special guests.**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

South San Francisco Conference Center
255 S Airport Blvd
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Tickets and details:
<http://SSFsotc2025.eventbrite.com>



Honoring Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce was honored to attend the **San Mateo County History Makers Dinner**, hosted by the **San Mateo County Historical Association**. This year's celebration recognized Congresswoman Anna Eshoo as a 2025 San Mateo County History Maker for her decades of dedicated public service.

The event brought together leaders and community members from across the county to celebrate Congresswoman Eshoo's remarkable career and lasting impact. Throughout her 32 years in Congress, she has championed healthcare, innovation, education, and environmental progress, always guided by compassion and integrity.

We extend our gratitude to **The San Francisco Peninsula** for the invitation and to the San Mateo County Historical Association for hosting such a meaningful evening honoring an inspiring leader.



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO POLICE
ASSOCIATION & K9 UNIT

4TH ANNUAL **GOLF** TOURNAMENT



MONDAY
OCTOBER 27

AT GREEN HILLS
COUNTRY CLUB

Check-in: 10:00am
Shotgun starts 11:00am

\$325- Per Player
\$1200- Foursome

Early Bird Specials
\$300 - Per Player
\$1100 -Foursome

Register now at:
charitygolftoday.com/ssfk9pa





October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women. Preventive exams like mammograms may help to identify breast cancer early, which can save lives. According to the American Cancer Society, when breast cancer is detected early and is in the localized stage, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.

Why are breast cancer screenings important?

Breast cancer screenings with mammograms are important to help detect early signs of breast cancer.

Kaiser Permanente is a national leader in breast cancer screening

Our breast cancer screening rates are in the top 5% nationwide, which exceeds the national average. According to HEDIS, the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, a tool that is used by more than 90 percent of U.S. health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service, Kaiser Permanente's screening rates are 81.8% vs. 74% nationwide. The following links demonstrate the importance of screening and early detection to help others:

[KPDivisionOfResearch.Breast-Cancer/](#) and [KPDivisionOfResearch.Breast-Cancer/](#).

The next critical step for most patients is treatment

Our clinicians treat over 500,000 cancer patients every year. When we detect cancer, we quickly create a care plan that's personalized for each patient's needs, so their care team can include a range of medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiologists, pharmacists, nurses, and care coordinators. Cancer patients are then followed closely and supported throughout all stages of their care.

While October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness month, it's important to keep screening and detection top of mind year-round. Stay current on your yearly physical too or schedule an appointment with your doctor if you have any concerns.

Yours in good health,

Edward Kao, MD

Physician-in-Chief

Kaiser Permanente South San Francisco Medical Center

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



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

10/11 Chamber Mixer with ABC Senior Care at Riposo

10/16 - Installation and Awards Dinner

10/17 - Last day to redeem your Genenbucks

11/6 - Taste of South San Francisco

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!

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



Chamber Personnel

Mary Prem
CEO

Arlene Dozier
Executive Assistant

Kamal Hyder
SF Bay ADU

Suzanne Lee
Genentech

Sailesh Mehra
SM8

Ambassadors

Luis Almendarez
Cetera Investors

Kris Brown
Cintas

Claudia & Mario Canseco
Chula SF

Board of Directors

President

Dani Fandino
Events & Flowers by Dani

Vice President

Cesar Dominguez
ProColor Collision

Treasurer

Michael Formosa
SSF Scavenger Company

Ex-Officio City Manager

Sharon Ranals

Ex-Officio City Economic Mgr

Ernesto Lucero

Natalia Morales

Kilroy Realty Corporation

Pravin Punjiya

Fairfield Inn by Marriott SFO

Judy Reyes

*California Catering at
SSF Conference Center*

Roger Rodriguez

Rockoto Peruvian Restaurant

Kevin Williams

California Water Service

Kevin Worth

Kaiser Permanente

Lydia Pomposo
Commissioner

Astrid Rivera
IHOP GM/Retired

Yamel Rodriguez
Northwest Water Proofing

John Sanna
Friends of Park & Rec

Brad Smith
Incline Insurance

Erika Tomayo
K-Bellos Hair Salon

Florida Ventura
Broker/Musician

Yesika Wong
YSIPIX Photography

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