

in the works

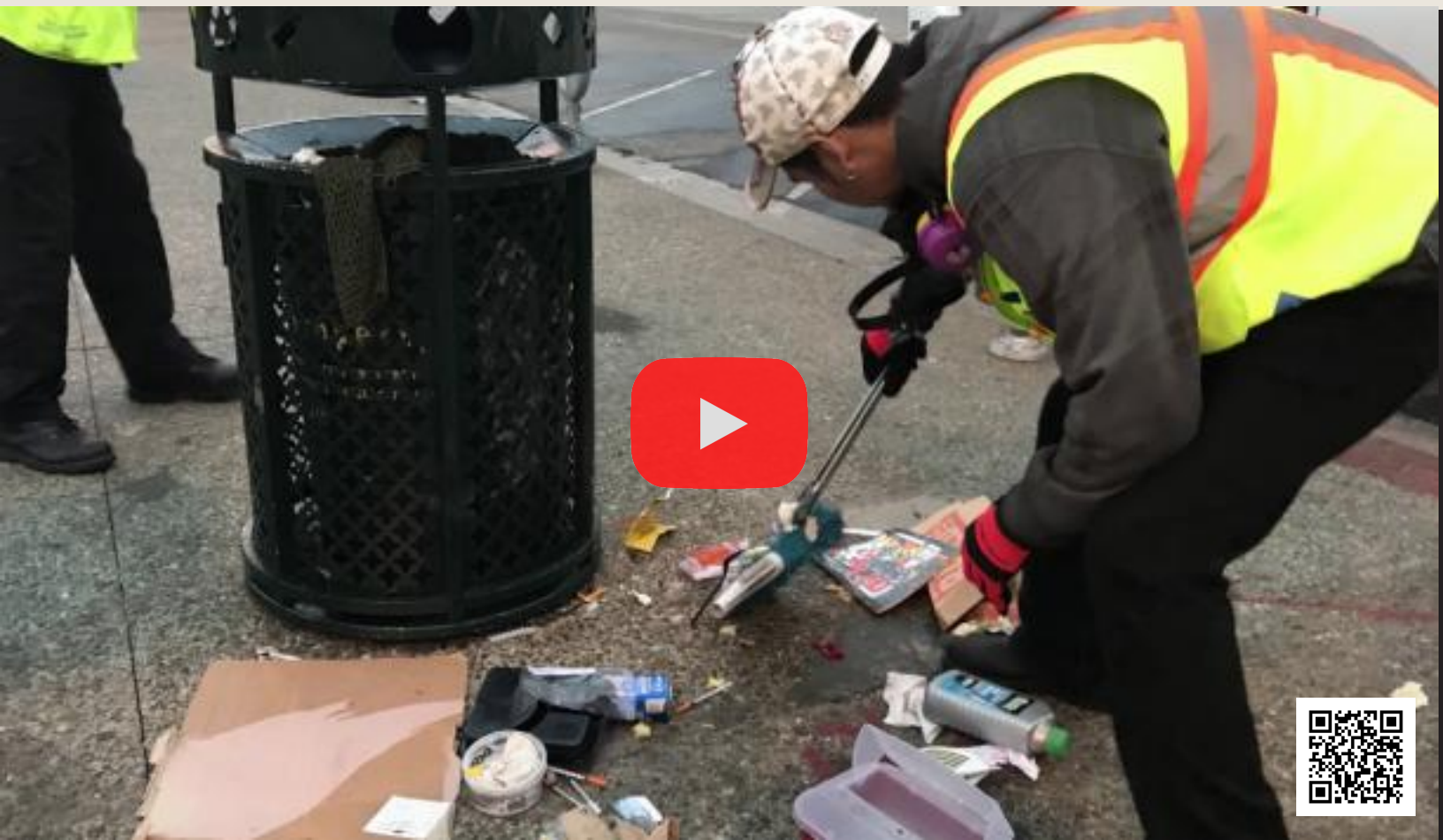
July 2017



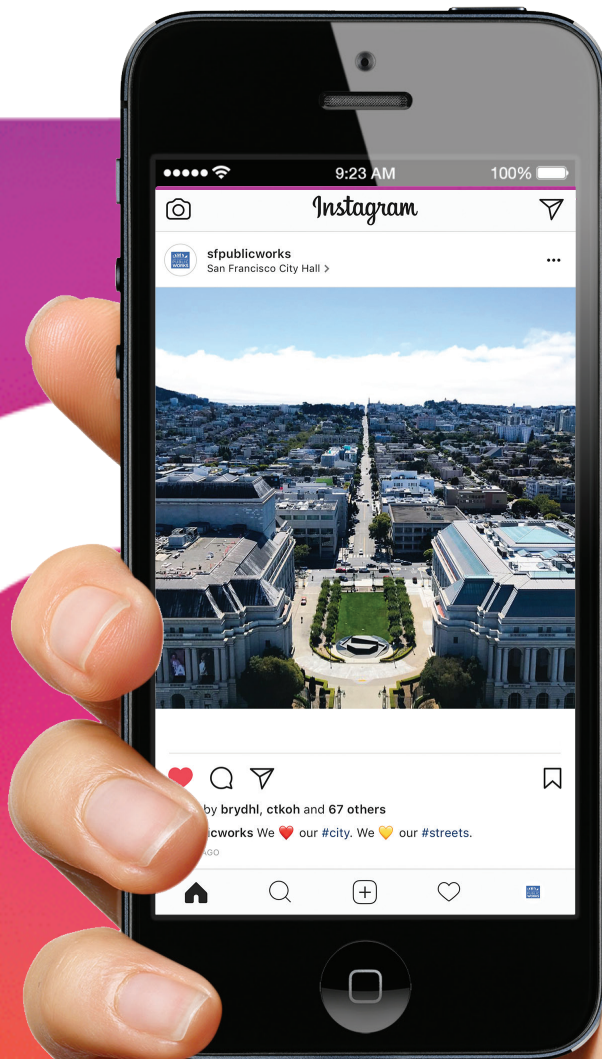
A Public Works arborist removes a large tree branch to provide enough clearance for electrical wires.



A message from our director



Follow us at [**sfpublicworks**](#) for a unique perspective on San Francisco – from the eyes of those who work hard to keep the City clean, green and beautiful.



Follow us on Instagram!



I just wanted to shoot you a quick message and say thank you. Public Works is truly amazing in responding to neighborhood issues. It's so refreshing to send things off and not have to worry about it anymore – I know with your team, it's taken care of. I sing the praises of Public Works all the time but wanted to let you know.

Justin J.

When I use the 311 app or call in with a problem that needs a response from Public Works, the response is timely, thorough and satisfactory, so kudos to Public Works.

Bruce B.

I'm writing to thank you for the incredible service Public Works has been providing to our beleaguered street corner recently. I live on Tehama Street near the corner of Eighth Street and we have been having huge problems recently with a number of overnight and daytime campers, who have been leaving trash and human waste on an almost daily basis. This past weekend your guys had been out several times to clean up some bad messes, and yesterday they did a pressure-hose washdown of the doorways that are constantly used as a toilet, right across from our home. I know this is not pleasant work, and I

just wanted to say thank you to you and your team. My husband and I do sweep the street regularly and pick up needles, but there are some things we don't have the equipment to deal with. We're grateful for all you do.

Susanna S.

I'd just like to say how much I appreciate the Pit Stop project. I live in the Haight-Ashbury area and catch the bus over by the Pit Stop. The attendant who works at this Pit Stop is wonderful. He's very friendly, diligent and really makes the whole area feel safe and welcoming. I've been catching the bus at this stop for a while and I really feel that since the Pit Stop opened, it's been a much better place to wait. So thank you for your work on this project and props to the awesome attendant who works at my local Pit Stop.

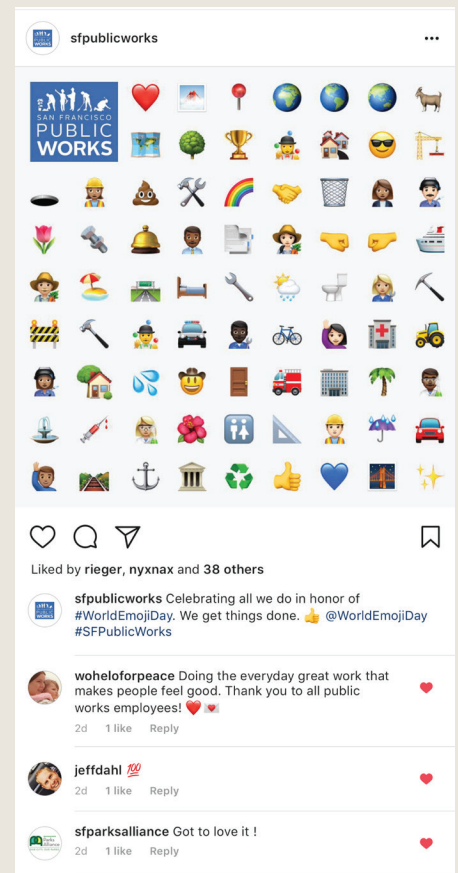
Rachel N.

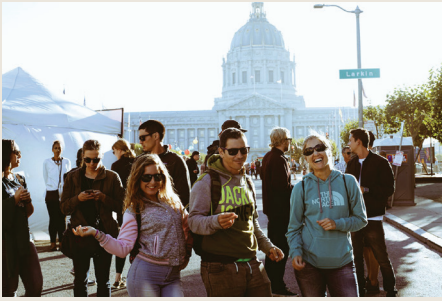
I noticed that the landscaping in the center median on Sunset was recently cleaned up; the efforts are noticed and very much appreciated. I was so pleased to see that it was finally taken care of, and it looks even better now than it did when they first installed it.

Erin A.

Can't thank all of you enough for your help, support and general wonderfulness! The volunteer workday was a very big success, thanks in large part to the work of Public Works and all of you who are a part of Urban Forestry. We had at least 13 volunteers come out to help and we have lots of ideas for ongoing ways to make our park the best place for everyone. Please give everyone from the crew who showed up today our thanks. We are so very grateful to you all.

Deborah G.





8/17, Thurs.

[The Commons on 3rd Thursdays](#)

Every third Thursday through October, Civic Center's public spaces will host live music, food trucks, beer gardens and family-friendly activities.

It's FREE and open to the public!

Civic Center Plaza
(Fulton Street, between the Main Library and Asian Art Museum)



8/26, Sat.

[Community Clean Team in District 11](#)

Help us plant 500 street trees in one day! Community Clean Team is San Francisco Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)
Balboa High School
1000 Cayuga Ave.

upcoming **EVENTS**



8/20, Sun.

[Sunday Streets Tenderloin](#)

Come and explore the historic Tenderloin District! Enjoy car-free fun in the heart of the Tenderloin, with FREE activities for the whole family to enjoy all along the route.

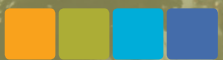
Check out the route map [here](#).

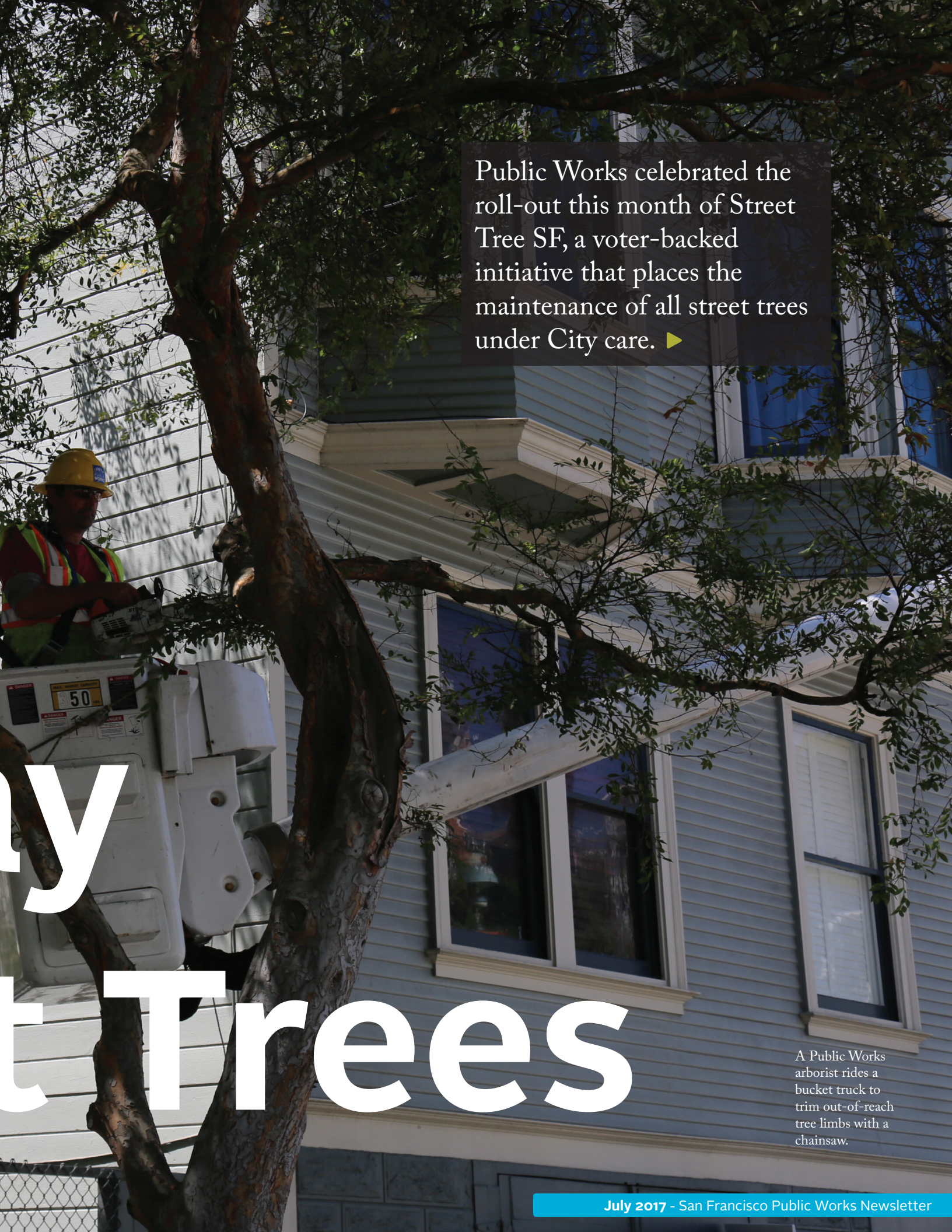


Jason Hui from our Structural Engineering Section attained his Professional Structural Engineering License. Our team now has 12 licensed structural engineers.



A New Day for Streets





Public Works celebrated the roll-out this month of Street Tree SF, a voter-backed initiative that places the maintenance of all street trees under City care. ►

City Street Trees

A Public Works arborist rides a bucket truck to trim out-of-reach tree limbs with a chainsaw.

► Mayor Ed Lee joined us at the July 19 event on 23rd Street in Noe Valley that featured a tree pruning demonstration by our Bureau of Urban Forestry crews, showing residents how Public Works cares for their neighborhood trees.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of San Francisco voters, the City now has sustainable funding – a \$19 million set-aside from the City’s General Fund.

Proposition E, which was approved by 79 percent of voters in the November 2016 election, created a comprehensive municipal tree maintenance program that will allow Public Works to care for the City’s nearly 125,000 street trees and fix tree-related sidewalk damage.

The change went into effect the 1st of July.

Prior to Street Tree SF, property owners held most of the responsibility for street tree maintenance. Not only did this put a financial burden on them, it also resulted in uneven, and at times inadequate, tree care.

The stable funding under Street Tree SF provides Public Works – for the first time – the ability to put San Francisco’s street trees on a regular pruning cycle, based on their species and

condition. This is a real game-changer that will allow our urban forest to thrive.

Before Proposition E took effect, the City conducted a [comprehensive tree census](#) that identified all street trees, noting their species, location and condition. We’ll be using this information to craft a tree maintenance plan that will allow us to start with the worst trees first.

The pruning of street trees will be prioritized based on safety considerations, structural flaws and necessary clearances for overhead wires, traffic signs and signals, adjacent buildings and traffic flow. This is expected to take several years, and routine pruning of street trees is anticipated to begin in 2020.

Proposition E grew out of the [San Francisco Urban Forest Plan](#), which was overseen by the Planning Department in collaboration with Public Works, the Urban Forestry Council and [Friends of the Urban Forest](#), the nonprofit that provided instrumental support in winning backing for the ballot measure. The plan found that the split maintenance responsibilities were not in the best interests of the health of San Francisco’s urban forest because care was inconsistent. Now, it’s a new day for San Francisco’s street trees. ■

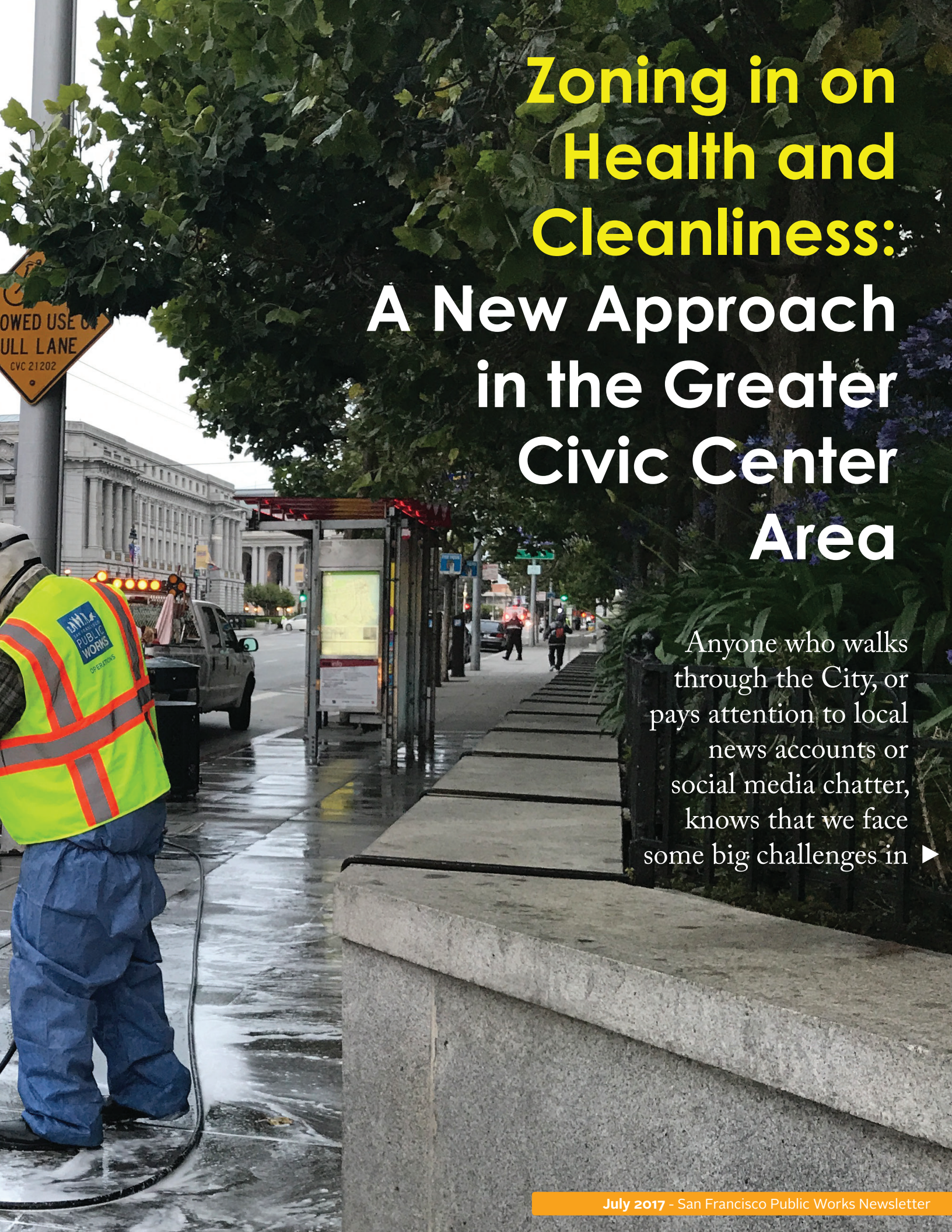


Public Works crews grind leftover tree trimmings with a wood chipper.



Public Works crews steam clean sidewalks before the day starts in the heart of Civic Center.





Zoning in on Health and Cleanliness: A New Approach in the Greater Civic Center Area

Anyone who walks through the City, or pays attention to local news accounts or social media chatter, knows that we face some big challenges in ►

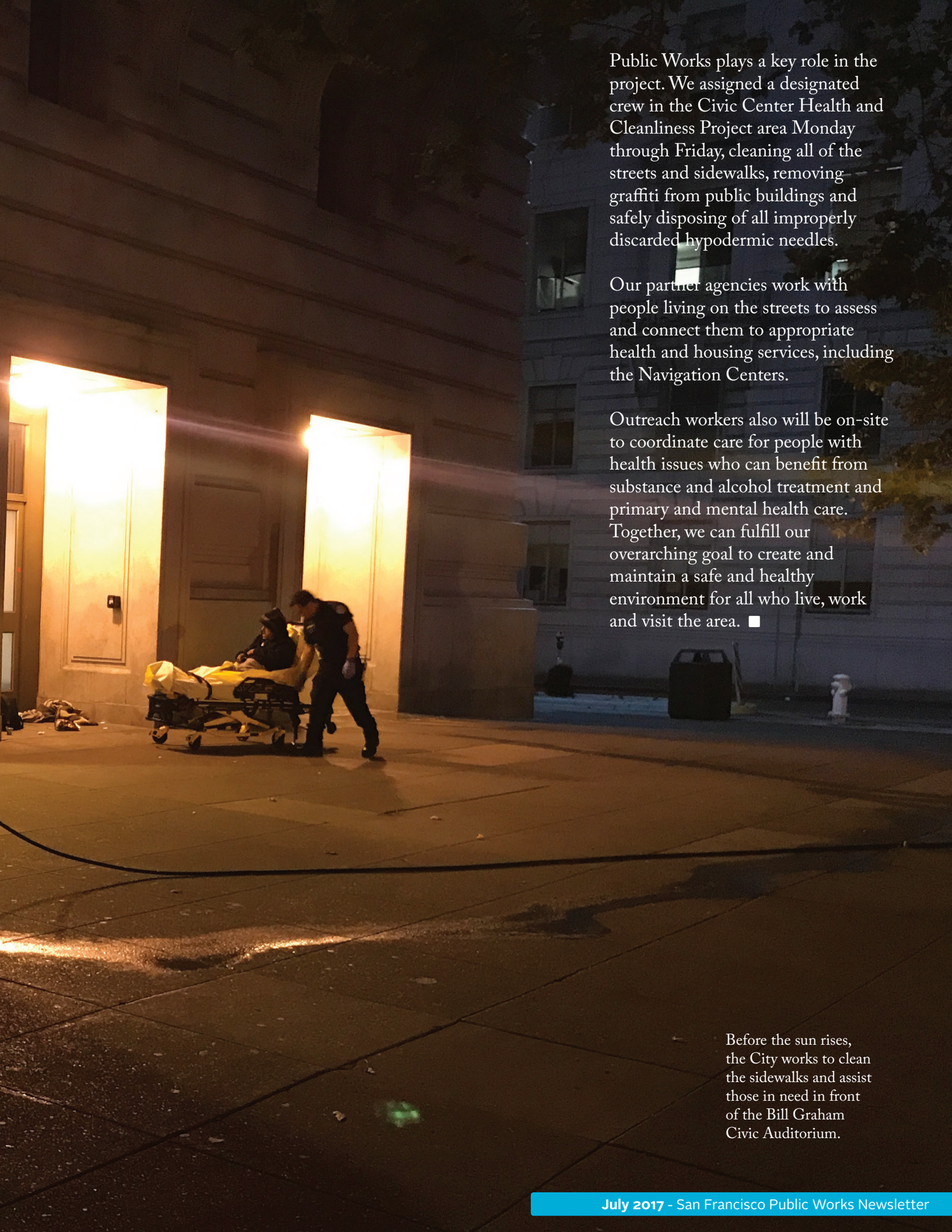
- San Francisco – and Public Works and other City agencies are at the forefront of delivering solutions to address them.

With that as a backdrop, a new initiative led by the City Administrator's Office is being launched to improve the quality of life in the greater Civic Center area.

The Civic Center Health and Cleanliness Project is a collaborative effort involving Public Works, the Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Police Department, and the San Francisco Fire Department. City Administrator Naomi Kelly is overseeing the operation.

The area of focus is generally bounded by Golden Gate, Sixth, Folsom, 14th and Gough streets. The location was based on 311 requests in the area pertaining to such quality of life concerns as discarded needles, human waste, illegal dumping, trash, graffiti, encampments, assaults, theft and vandalism.





Public Works plays a key role in the project. We assigned a designated crew in the Civic Center Health and Cleanliness Project area Monday through Friday, cleaning all of the streets and sidewalks, removing graffiti from public buildings and safely disposing of all improperly discarded hypodermic needles.

Our partner agencies work with people living on the streets to assess and connect them to appropriate health and housing services, including the Navigation Centers.

Outreach workers also will be on-site to coordinate care for people with health issues who can benefit from substance and alcohol treatment and primary and mental health care. Together, we can fulfill our overarching goal to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for all who live, work and visit the area. ■

Before the sun rises, the City works to clean the sidewalks and assist those in need in front of the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.



A Hillside – and Lots of Goodwill – Blooms





Months after the team from the Public Works Design & Engineering division completed work on a Noe Valley rock slope improvement project, associate engineer Stephan Leung received ►

- ▶ an email with photos of bright pink flowers and the praise: “Thanks again for a good job!”

Leung had last seen the hillside at the intersection of 27th, Newburg and Castro streets when he and section manager Raymond Lui completed the \$250,000 stabilization project at the end of last year that left the lush slope secure and safe – but barren.

Spurred by the email from Eugenia Caldwell, whose home abuts the hillside, Leung drove to the site this month. And indeed, it was abloom with colorful trumpet vine and princess flowers, Mexican sage and various succulents – a stark contrast to the rocky, eroding landscape he encountered when work began last year.

The work scope included removing the hillside’s overgrown vegetation, installing

rock dowels and wire mesh netting to shore up the unstable slope and hydroseeding the land to ensure the area would return to its verdant glory.

From the beginning, Caldwell and her husband, Peter, kept close tabs on their de facto side yard. When it became clear the majority of plants and flowers needed to be removed for the project, they hired a landscape architect to determine which could be saved. During construction, the couple cared for the plants and invested in dozens of succulents and flowers to spruce up the two terraces at the base of the hill.

The future of the Noe Valley hillside was a team effort from Day One.

“I think the City did a very good job on a complex project. Technically, they didn’t have any obligation to us; we’re just

neighbors. But they treated us as if we were stakeholders,” Caldwell says.

The Caldwells have been committed to the publicly owned hillside since they purchased their home 30 years ago. Back then, Caldwell recalls, “It was a terrible-looking eyesore: weeds and beer bottles.”

In the early 1990s, the Caldwells’ neighborhood group, the Duncan Newburg Association, secured a grant to beautify the hillside. Today, thanks to the stabilization project, the slope is experiencing a renaissance.

“It looks better now than it looked 25 years ago because you can see the wildflowers all over the hill,” Caldwell says. “We were away on vacation and just in that week all of the flowers had popped out. We couldn’t believe it.” ■



Engineers Stephan Leung (left) and Raymond Lui of Public Works' Design & Engineering division celebrate the blooming hillside at 27th and Newburg streets with neighbors Eugenia and Peter Caldwell.





A Mentor and an Inte



urn: Driven to Succeed



Architectural associate Jorge Gutierrez has been commuting to his job at Public Works for nearly three decades. But these days, he's seeing things with fresh eyes, thanks to mechanical engineering intern Israel Modesto.

Their dynamic as colleagues is new, but their friendship isn't.

Four years ago, Modesto was a senior at East Union High School in Manteca with a 4.0 GPA – and faced with the prospect of not graduating.

Born in California to migrant camp workers, he had an opportunity to be the first in his family to attend college; his parents, however, were planning to do what they'd done every winter for years: return home to Mexico.

One of Modesto's mentors at school was determined to help him finish high school and mentioned his situation to her brother-in-law, Jorge Gutierrez.

Gutierrez had three kids of his own – including a daughter in Modesto's grade – and invited Modesto to stay with him until the end of the school year. His willingness may have stemmed from the fact that Gutierrez was one of 13 kids and, like Modesto, the first in his family with a real shot at attending college.

Today, thanks to a true coincidence, Gutierrez and Modesto commute together from San Joaquin County in the Central Valley to the Public Works office building at 30 Van Ness Avenue near San Francisco's Civic Center.

Each morning at 3:30 a.m., Modesto drives from French Camp, where he currently lives with his parents in a community of nearly 100 migrant farmworker families, to Gutierrez's home in Manteca.

From there, the two begin a two-hour commute by car and BART. In the car, it's

KCBS radio and small talk; on BART, it's cat naps. Prior to his internship, Modesto had only visited San Francisco twice on school field trips.

Gutierrez, whose own Public Works career began with an internship while studying architecture at UC Berkeley, provides his young friend with career guidance, as well as parental insight.

"He's like my father," Modesto admits.

With three more semesters to go, Modesto looks forward to completing his bachelor's in mechanical engineering at Sacramento State University.

Gutierrez, on the other hand, is in no hurry to see him go, admitting: "I'm going to miss that commute when he goes back to school."



Hallidie Plaza

Visit Information Center
Maps • Tickets • Tours

Hallidie Plaza
↑ Market Street
← Powell Street
← Cable Cars
← Union Square

Welcome to
HALLIDIE PLAZA





za Blossoms!





Tourists, commuters, shoppers and local denizens provide the moving backdrop of Hallidie Plaza – one of the busiest hubs in San Francisco.

This summer, when people are stepping out of the Powell St. BART/Muni Station, or are waiting in line for their cable car rides at the Powell Street turnaround, they will be greeted by newly minted planter boxes spilling with colorful summer flowers and bountiful plants along the Hallidie Plaza railings.

This one-year pilot project was driven by a vision to make the public space at Powell and Market streets in the heart of downtown San Francisco more beautiful and welcoming.

Public Works landscape architects helped select plants and flowers based on an orange and chartreuse color scheme that also are low maintenance, durable and showy. The City's Community Challenge Grant Program helped fund the improvement project and we partnered with the nonprofit San

Francisco Clean City Coalition to provide regular watering and maintenance.

In addition, the nonprofit will staff the Hallidie Plaza elevator to ensure it is kept clean and safe and used for its intended purpose.

The flowers will change with the seasons, so before summer is over check out the current palette. We think you'll be impressed!



Volunteers Get

Public Works teamed up with eight San Francisco-based companies





the Job Done!

s for the fifth-annual Townsend cleanup in the SoMa neighborhood.

Adobe volunteers and Public Works Community Programs staff pose for a picture after a hard day of work in the SoMa.



Volunteers from North Beach Neighbors, a non-profit community group, hit the streets to remove litter from their sidewalks.



- ▶ Nearly 100 volunteers from Adobe, Airbnb, Pinterest, Fitness SF, TechCrunch, User Testing, Room & Board and Engadget traded in their computers and keyboards for shovels and rakes on July 20 to help spruce up the neighborhood where they work.

Three groups of volunteers broke off with our Bureau of Urban Forestry crews to work on landscaping projects along medians and on sidewalks surrounding their nearby offices. The work included weeding and spreading mulch on Berry and

Mission streets, cutting back overgrown weeds next to the freeway on-ramp on Brannan and Sixth streets and filling in tree basins at Brannan Street and Boardman Place.

Meanwhile, additional teams took to the streets to remove micro-litter – mainly cigarette butts. At the end of the day, 15 bags of bottles, cigarette butts, paper bags and other detritus were filled by volunteers and properly disposed of by Public Works crews.

Two days later, on July 22, [North Beach Neighbors](#) began what they expect will be a monthly cleanup of their neighborhood. The 15 volunteers picked up litter, swept sidewalks and gutters and tidied up tree wells. And they had a lot of fun!

The SoMa and North Beach volunteer workdays offered a great opportunity for Public Works to partner with residents and businesses to foster positive change in the neighborhoods and bolster a sense of civic pride. ■

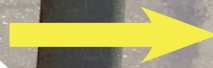


Summer Interns Pulled





in the Right Direction





Project Pull interns paint over graffiti on a wall along the Great Highway and Ocean Beach.





San Francisco's annual Project Pull paid summer internship program is going strong after more than two decades, giving local high school and college students a chance to explore careers in government.

The students also provide extra help for City departments. We have 15 Project Pull interns working with us this summer, five with our architects, three with our engineers and seven with our operations division. They get hands-on experience in the field and in the office.

We also peeled them away from their regular assignments for an all-hands-on-deck event July 21. About 150 Project Pull participants from across City departments took part in a cleanup along the Great Highway and at Ocean Beach, painting the ocean-front promenade from Noriega to Santiago streets and picking up litter on the beach and nearby Sunset District sidewalks.

We appreciated their help, as together we work to keep San Francisco clean and beautiful.



Navigation Center: A Game-Changer in the Mission

A month after San Francisco opened its newest Navigation Center in the southern Mission District, the popup shelter is operating near capacity, providing beds, meals, care and relief for ▶

- ▶ people who had been living in sidewalk encampments in the surrounding neighborhood.

Public Works designers, carpenters, electricians and plumbers transformed a former electric company property at 1515 South Van Ness Ave. into the City's fourth and newest Navigation Center focused on moving chronically homeless people and their pets from encampments into a more stable living environment. The shelter is layered with intensive case management and on-site services, such as counseling and medical care.

The campus has inviting outdoor space, dorm sleeping quarters, common rooms bathed in natural light, counseling offices, bathrooms and showers and on-site meals.

Once the South Van Ness Avenue shelter opened – the first people moved in June 29 – the City had the ability to offer encampment dwellers a safe and clean alternative. As a result, the surrounding neighborhood is being made into a tent-free zone, and Public Works crews are in the area daily keeping it clean.

The [innovative Navigation Center model](#) was spearheaded by Mayor Ed Lee with the aim of transitioning people from the streets into supportive housing or reuniting them with family. The Navigation Centers are overseen by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

The South Van Ness Avenue Navigation Center has room for 120 men and women and, as beds open up, new people will move in.

The Mission District facility has the backing of District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen and specifically caters to individuals who have been living in neighborhood encampments in the area bounded by Valencia, Potrero, Cesar Chavez and Division streets. Clients must be referred to the shelter by City outreach teams or the police.

The facility is scheduled to be demolished next year and replaced with an affordable housing development.

Navigation Centers are intended to be temporary, and are designed and built with that in mind: The furnishings and, in some cases, modular housing units can be picked up and moved to a new location. More Navigation Centers are in the works. ■





Design rendering of the new Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.





Chief Medical Examiner Project Making Progress

Construction crews have been making tremendous progress on San Francisco's new [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#) headquarters in the Bayview. The \$65 million facility at 1 Newhall St. is scheduled to open this fall, two years after we broke ground.

The project allows the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

to move to a new, state-of-the-art building from its previous location at the half-century-old, seismically deficient Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant St.

The office investigates more than 1,200 deaths each year.

The project is funded by the \$400 million [Earthquake Safety](#)

[and Emergency Response Bond](#), approved by voters in 2014.

San Francisco Public Works oversaw design of the unique building and its highly technical laboratories and is responsible for construction management. The general contractor is Clark Construction and the architect is KMD Architects.

Friends, families and neighbors took a break from their regular summer activities to clean and green Balboa Park, Ingleside and Oceanview neighborhoods in District 7 at our monthly [Community Clean Team](#) event. ►



Summer of Love Our Neigh





neighborhoods

Volunteers from GEO Care landscape a hillside on the City College campus while the Benny Bufano statue of St. Francis – sculpted from gunmetal – looks on.

Garden Project
volunteers take
a break from
weeding the City
College campus to
pose for a picture.



► More than 200 volunteers joined Public Works crews on July 29 to spruce up streets, medians, schools and public spaces on a brisk morning in the City. The event kicked off at City College of San Francisco, with a pump-up-the-crowd rally from Public Works director Mohammed Nuru.

“Public Works takes tremendous pride in working with community groups and organizations to make our neighborhoods clean, green and beautiful,” said Nuru. “Community Clean Team provides fun activities where residents can come together to give back to the City.”

Each month, several community organizations, schools and volunteer groups from across the City join us at Community Clean Team, Public Works’ largest and longest-running volunteer program that began 17 years ago. Some groups join us month after month, year after year. ►





Tzu Chi volunteers
prune and weed the
hydrangea-adorned
garden on Los
Palmos Drive.





▶ One such group is The Garden Project, a local nonprofit that empowers at-risk young adults through environmentally based job training. Close to 50 folks from the organization set off to beautify City College's main campus by performing various landscaping tasks, including weeding and spreading mulch.

Volunteers from the Tzu Chi Foundation, a humanitarian organization with international roots, teamed up with Public Works employees to clear overgrown weeds and prune shrubs and trees at the Los Paltos Drive community garden. The folks from Tzu Chi are regulars at Community Clean Team, and demonstrate their organization's values of environmental protection, volunteerism and humanistic care through hard work and can-do attitudes.

Other neighborhood improvements included habitat restoration at the Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center; painting and cleaning City trash cans and electrical boxes on Phelan Avenue and filling tree basins along Ocean Avenue.

Community Clean Team will be back next month! Be sure to mark your calendar for August 26 when we will be planting 500 trees in District 11 neighborhoods; this is an event you won't want to miss!

The kickoff will be held at Balboa High School, 1000 Cayuga Ave. As always, registration begins at 8:30 and the speaking program will begin at 9 a.m. ■

Meet **Jason Williams**



Public Works street cleaning crew member Jason Williams helps care for this neighborhood.







Meet **Stanley Moy**



Excelsior Action Group's Stanley Moy helps care for this neighborhood.

MAKE IT HOME: IT CAN WAIT



DRIVING SAFELY IS **OUR** PRIORITY

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS



Public Works Makes a Safety Culture Shift

A year after Public Works managers brainstormed on how to instill a culture of safety in the organization after injuries and accidents began to creep up, the results are in: We had fewer injuries than at any time in the past three decades.

That just didn't happen with a wave of a magic wand. The shift took time and determination.

As a start, the managers agreed that in order to take our safety program to the next level, we needed to build a culture of safety where every manager, supervisor and front-line employee takes personal responsibility for the safety program.

To move the culture forward, several new activities were implemented:

- Safety was added to the Public Works' core values of responsiveness, respect and integrity.
- Managers began to model safety by including safety messages in their staff meetings, wearing personal protective gear in the field and conducting safety audits of their work sites.
- Safety messages were added to the media walls, newsletters and computer screens.
- Our Safety Policy Statement was reissued.
- Public Works held the first-annual Safety Recognition

Breakfast where employees and teams were recognized as safety leaders.

- The Operations Safety Committee made posters on the value of working safely, driving safely and staying healthy.
- Vision Zero training began for Public Works drivers to reduce traffic-related deaths and serious injuries.

During the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2017, Public Works had a recordable injury rate of 7. That means about 7 percent of our approximately 1,600 employees was injured last year and 93 percent of the workforce was injury-free. That's the best record we've had in the past 30 years; our highest recordable injury rate was 20. The improvement means more Public Works employees were working safer and able to go home to their families healthy at the end of the day. It's a goal everyone should strive to achieve whether you work at Public Works or at another job.

Our aim for the new fiscal year is to continue to move forward. We are going to focus our culture shift on how we can keep our drivers and the public safe on the road. Public Works is an important part of the Vision Zero effort to prevent traffic fatalities, and driving safely is the key to this effort.



Jimmy Schein of [Schein & Schein](#) stopped by our Bureau of Street-Use and Mapping for a lunchtime talk on the rare 1854 R.P. Bridgens Map of San Francisco.

