



in the works

January 2020



Newly appointed Acting Public Works Director Alaric Degrafinried gets to know a street cleaning crew during a visit to the Glen Park neighborhood.

Front Cover: Volunteers and Public Works landscape crews spruce up the Telegraph Hill slope during the season's first Community Clean Team.

Back Cover: Planted by neighborhood volunteers in December 2018 as an acorn on the [Glen Park Greenway](#), this emerging coast live oak is now showing its potential.

A Message from Acting Public Works Director Alaric Degrafinried

To the San Francisco Community –

It is with honor and humility that I take on the role of Acting Director of San Francisco Public Works. My top priorities are to serve the people of San Francisco by keeping the City beautiful, safe, clean and accessible for residents, merchants and visitors and to help restore public trust in our department. That is the clear direction from Mayor London Breed and City Administrator Naomi Kelly, and one I will carry out with resolve.

The actions of one person do not reflect on the hard work and integrity of our department. And as Mayor Breed noted, “San Francisco is a resilient City and we have faith that Public Works employees will continue to effectively serve our world-class City.”

Public Works is a strong and resilient organization with 1,600-plus dedicated women and men who work every day cleaning streets and sidewalks, caring for trees, removing graffiti, designing public infrastructure and buildings and maintaining public spaces. We are proud of our highly qualified and dedicated workforce that ensures our collective vision for the City becomes a reality.

While I am new to Public Works, I am not new to City government. I started in 2007 and have worked for the Human Rights Commission, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and most recently as City Purchaser and Director of the Office of Contract Administration.

My aim is to implement policies and procedures that promote an open and transparent government. Outside of my official duties with the City, I served on the Oakland Public Ethics Commission, from 2008-2011.

I grew up in Denver and after graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, I started my career in the private sector as a finance manager for General Electric. However, after seven years there, I knew I wanted to do more with my life, which included giving back to the community, so I joined the Peace Corps, serving two years in Haiti. While in Haiti, I worked primarily with rural micro-credit organizations. It was there that I realized the importance of making connections with communities. I helped people start and grow their small businesses so they can support themselves and their families. After my time in Haiti, I was sure I wanted to pursue a career in public service, which led me to a law degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law and eventually my career with the City.

I look forward to getting to know you and all of our community partners, and working together for a stronger, cleaner and more beautiful city.

With appreciation,

Alaric Degrafinried

outreach







EVENTS



2/6

[Public Meeting on Public Works' Upcoming Budget and Budget Priorities](#)

5 p.m.
City Hall North Light Court
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.



2/7

[San Francisco Black History Month Kickoff Celebration](#)

This year's Black History Month Kickoff will highlight the theme, African Americans & The Vote: The Movement Lives On. The event will include elected officials, empowering entertainment pieces and an inspirational keynote speech.

Noon – 1 p.m. (free)
City Hall Rotunda



2/8 and 2/9

[2020 Chinese New Year Street Fair](#)

At the fair, experience Chinese cultural arts, including folk dancing, opera, drumming and much more, at the entertainment stage on Washington Street below Grant Avenue.

10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2/8

[2020 Chinese New Year Parade](#)

The parade starts at Market and Second streets and travels to Kearny and Jackson streets with elaborate floats, lion dancers, folk dancers, costumed elementary school groups, marching bands, stilt walkers, Chinese acrobats and a 288-foot-long Golden Dragon ("Gum Lung").

Parade - 5 p.m.
Portsmouth Square



2/14

Valentine's Day



2/17

Presidents Day



2/22

[Community Clean Team - District 9](#)

Community Clean Team is San Francisco Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps the City beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods. Community Clean Team, in partnership with the Love Our City anti-litter campaign, needs your help to keep our city clean and green in 2020. Join us and volunteer!

9:00 a.m.
Kickoff location:
John O'Connell High School
2393 Harrison St. (back parking lot)

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HAPPY 20/20



“When life gets blurry.
adjust your focus.”

KEEP THESE GOALS IN SIGHT:



CELEBRATE
YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



REMOVE
NON-ESSENTIALS



RECALIBRATE
YOUR PASSION TO YOUR GOALS

WORD OF THE MONTH:

Yeasayer (n.)

a person with an optimistic
and confident outlook

Steven the yeasayer walked
through the office high-fiving
everyone and wishing
all a happy new year.



PROTECT YOUR VISION **65%** OF AMERICANS SUFFER FROM EYE STRAIN

FOLLOW THE 20/20/20 RULE:



EVERY **20** MINUTES



LOOK AT SOMETHING
20 FEET AWAY



FOR **20** SECONDS



MAKE SURE YOUR SCREEN
IS AT A “HIGH-FIVE” DISTANCE
FROM WHERE YOU ARE SITTING

BE COOL AND WEAR YOUR SHADES

SUNGLASSES ARE A GREAT FASHION ACCESSORY
but their most important job is to protect
your eyes from the sun’s ultraviolet rays.
Find ones that block 99-100% of both UV-A and UV-B radiation



Car-free Market Street a Reality



Jan. 29 marked a new era for Better Market Street with implementation of a ban on private automobiles.

Private cars on Market Street are a thing of the past.

Starting at 6 a.m. on Jan. 29, the City banned the use of private automobiles along a 2.2-mile stretch of Market Street eastbound from 10th to Main streets and westbound from Steuart Street to Van Ness Avenue. ▶





The corridor is traveled by 200 buses and 650 bicyclists an hour during peak times. Another 500,000 people walk on Market Street daily.



Advocates for a car-free Market Street celebrate on the first day of the new traffic restrictions.

- ▶ Commercial vehicles, transit, taxis and paratransit are still allowed on that stretch of Market Street.

The corridor is traveled by 200 buses and 650 bicyclists an hour during peak times. Another 500,000 people walk on Market Street daily. The corridor has had the unenviable distinction of being one of the most dangerous; half of the City's top 10 intersections for injuring collisions involving people walking or biking are on Market Street. That must change.

Car-free Market Street, implemented by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency in collaboration with Public Works, to improve Muni efficiency and make the corridor safer for people who bike and walk. This project is a core component of a larger reimagining of the busy corridor.

Better Market Street is a transformational project managed by Public Works that will be built in phases to enhance safety, improve transit and create a vibrant and inclusive destination where people want to live, work and visit. The project will include a protected sidewalk-level bikeway, new landscaping, street furnishings, public art and sidewalks that meet the mobility and accessibility needs of everyone.

Construction on the project is expected to start in late 2020 or early 2021. For project details, please visit the Better Market Street [website](#).

A nighttime photograph of a bridge under construction over a body of water. The bridge's steel framework is visible in the upper right corner, illuminated by a green light. In the foreground, a small, two-story structure with a dark roof sits on the bridge deck. The water below reflects the city lights and the bridge's structure. In the background, a tall building under construction is visible, with a crane extending from its top. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is lit by various artificial lights, creating a vibrant urban atmosphere.

AN UPLIFTING EVENING

The Third Street Bridge, also known as the Lefty O'Doul Bridge, continues to undergo rehabilitation work as part of a two-year, \$25 million renovation project. ►



Bridge repair crews replace corroded bolts on the historic drawbridge.







This iconic bascule bridge, connecting China Basin and Mission Bay, was designed by Joseph Strauss and opened to the public on May 12, 1933 during the Great Depression.



- Passersby may have seen the historic drawbridge raised the night of Jan. 23 so crews could replace corroded bolts – work that could only be performed when the bridge was lifted to give access to workers.

A large construction-staging barge also could be moved to the west side of the span to support work being done below the water's surface.

This iconic bascule bridge, connecting China Basin and Mission Bay, was designed by Joseph Strauss and opened to the public on May 12, 1933 during the Great Depression. Strauss also was the chief engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge, which began construction earlier that year on Jan. 5.

“We are working day and night complete the remaining bridge rehabilitation activity,” said San Francisco Public Works Project Manager Jacky Ng. “There are certain areas of the bridge that still need to be worked on that are only accessible when the bridge span is raised, so we do this work at night to minimize traffic impacts.”

The first phase of the rehabilitation project involved counterweight repairs, with work performed by Cal State Constructors. Phase II work, performed by American Bridge Company, began in October 2018 and is anticipated to be completed by April 2020.

Additional project information is available [here](#).





Chinatown Spruce Up for the Lunar New Year

Public Works staff ushered in the Lunar New Year by sprucing up Chinatown with extra street cleaning, graffiti abatement, pothole repairs and fresh coats of paint on street furniture and light poles. ►



A painter with our Bureau of Building Repair freshens a Chinatown light pole.





- ▶ We also had more street inspectors in the neighborhood to make sure the sidewalks were free of tripping hazards.

The streets of Chinatown teemed with activity in the weeks leading up to the Chinese New Year, which this year was celebrated on Jan. 25. Tens of thousands of residents and visitors are drawn to the neighborhood to shop, dine and celebrate with family and friends.

We'll be back in Chinatown with a full contingent of street cleaners on Feb. 8 to get the area back in good shape after the world-famous Chinese New Year Parade. The work is demanding, but the New Year festivities are something we're proud to be a part of.



Lots of landscaping work on Telegraph Hill got done during the volunteer workday in District 3 neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY CLEAN TEAM TURNS 20!

Portsmouth Square in Chinatown is no stranger to bustling crowds and lots of activity, but the action picked up even more on Jan. 11, as we kicked off the 20th anniversary of Community Clean Team in grand fashion. ►







A festive lion and dragon dance launched the 20th-anniversary season of Community Clean Team.





Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Aaron Peskin rally volunteers at Portsmouth Square in Chinatown.



"The Community Clean Team is all about building community, taking ownership and flexing our civic pride, while also keeping our city clean and beautiful." - Mayor London Breed



► To celebrate this milestone and honor the upcoming Lunar New Year, we kicked off the event with traditional lion and dragon dances and a firecracker show. More than 300 volunteers took part in the workday. They were joined by Mayor London Breed, District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin and employees from Public Works, the Recreation and Park Department, the San Francisco Fire Department and SF Environment.

“We all have a responsibility to keep our city looking good. Over the past two decades, Community Clean Team has brought together thousands of volunteers – residents young and old, merchants, school groups, religious organizations and nonprofits – who find value in spending a few hours on a Saturday morning giving back to San Francisco,” said Mayor Breed. “The Community Clean Team is all about building community, taking ownership and flexing our civic pride, while also keeping our city clean and beautiful.”

Our diverse group of volunteers got to work at sites throughout Chinatown, North Beach, the Financial District and Fisherman’s Wharf, where they planted trees, painted over graffiti, picked up litter and weeded overgrown public spaces.

Supervisor Peskin was excited that Community Clean Team was kicking off its 20th season in the historic Chinatown

neighborhood, which he represents. “District 3 is the heart of our tourism economy, but it’s also home to some of the densest, most vibrant residential neighborhoods in the City, including the nation’s most intact Chinatown,” he said. “We are committed to clean streets that serve everyone: from tourists to residents, from the merchants lining our sidewalks to seniors strolling our alleyways. Mobilizing the community for a day of stewardship is the perfect way to kick off 2020 and the Lunar New Year.”

Community Clean Team, which is San Francisco Public Works’ largest and longest running volunteer program, has been a vehicle through which San Franciscans of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs and abilities can get engaged and show pride in the city they call home. In the program’s first two decades, volunteers logged over 200,000 hours of service, painted out 4 million square feet of graffiti, collected more than 5,000 bags of litter and added more than 4,500 trees and plants to the City’s public spaces.

Through fostering this sense of pride and ownership, we at San Francisco Public Works hope to empower all San Franciscans to live by the values gained from Community Clean Team in their daily lives – ultimately making our city a cleaner, greener and friendlier place to live and work.

Here’s to 20 more years!

