# october 2018

PUBLIC WORKS HILITEL HARD

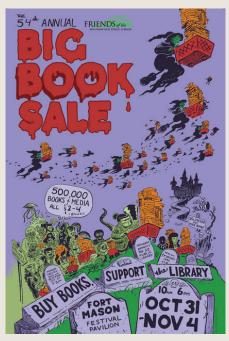
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Public Works Better Market Street Project Manager Cristina Calderón Olea spotted this regal raptor outside the War Memorial Building, with San Francisco's historic City Hall in the background.

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#### 11/1 - 11/4

#### SFPL 54th Annual Big Book Sale

Book deals abound at the Friends of the San Francisco Library's 54th Annual Big Book Sale. All books will be \$1 on Nov. 4.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fort Mason Festival Pavilion 2 Marina Blvd. completion of the 22nd Street Green Corridor. Event features music and family-friendly festivities, including a puppet show.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wood Yard Park 22nd Street at Minnesota Street



11/4

#### The 2018 Commons Block Party on 1st Sundays

The final 1st Sunday block party of the year offers food trucks, free roller skating, music, a craft bazaar and family-friendly games and outdoor activities.

11 a.m.- 3p.m. Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza and Fulton Street. without toilets and safe sanitation. With the help of countless agencies, United Nations Water is working toward the goal of ensuring that everyone has a safe toilet by 2030.



#### 11/17

Community Clean Team in District 2

San Francisco Public Works' longestrunning and largest volunteer program keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

8:30 a.m. - Registration 9 a.m. - Speaking program Galileo High School 1150 Francisco St.



#### 11/3

22nd Street Green Corridor Celebration and Ribbon Cutting

City officials join the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association for a ribboncutting celebration commemorating



#### 11/9

#### World Toilet Day

San Francisco Public Works, which operates the expanding Pit Stop public toilet program, marks this annual event that brings awareness to the fact that billions of people around the world are



#### 11/30

Opening of Winter Park Ice Rink at Civic Center

Civic Center Plaza's holiday ice rink opens with festivities and guest appearances.

11 a.m. - noon - Opening celebration; rink will be open daily noon-10 p.m. until Jan. 6, 2019



I wanted to thank you again for your time and expertise at yesterday's community walk around. Our office is truly appreciative of your efforts to identify and prioritize tree replacement around Everett Middle School and are grateful for your willingness to communicate this plan to our concerned constituents. It appears safe to say that the dozen or so folks who attended arrived skeptics and left excited about the proposed changes.

Thank you again for your time. We look forward to working with you on this and other projects in the future.

Tom Temprano Legislative Aide Office of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

On behalf of the Medical Examiner, we wish to thank you for your continued efforts to ensure these outstanding building repairs are completed. I personally know this has been quite the process to direct all parties involved, and I wish to convey our sincere appreciation.

Your unwavering dedication to this City project facility, from design infancy to final occupancy, makes reminiscing over the entire process spanning several years, simply rewarding.

Thank you for your dedication to the City and your fellow sister agencies. This facility has truly made a difference to the staff of the Medical Examiner, but more importantly it

#### SFPUBLICWORKS.ORG



enhances the experience of visitors who had an unforeseen need to encounter our team here.

Christopher Wirowek Director of Operations Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

This weekend we had an amazing workday on the Bernal Cut path working to beautify the southern slope of Bernal Cut and expand the tree planting we began three years ago. The day was a success and a big part of the success, of our Street Parks workdays are the fortitude and commitment of the Clean & Green Team. Paul has lead his team on our hillside at least six times from the first tree planting, to mulching days in the pouring rain and the epic work of loading your packer truck with debris. We couldn't do this work without them.

I just wanted you to know that we are extremely grateful for Public Works' Street Parks program and the support we get from the Clean & Green Team.

Sophie C.

Thank you for your help in installing infrastructure at Garden for the Environment that will make it a safer and more accessible place for people to enjoy. I saw the new north handrail on Saturday, and it looks great, as do the other improvements.

Trina Lopez Program Manager - Adult Programs Garden for the Environment

Miraloma Park is fortunate to have great residents who have devoted their time and effort to create a beautiful community garden. The Los Palmos Garden, located on Los Palmos Drive near Foerster Street, was created in 1995. Residents cleaned up abandoned City property; it is the unpaved part of Verna Street. Now it is a thriving oasis in Miraloma Park.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, the Los Palmos Garden participated in District 7's Community Clean Team event. Neighbors were invited to come help and on Saturday morning City staff, a truck, tools and volunteers arrived to change our garden into a magical destination.

I want to thank so many people for their dedication and service.

Public Works staff came to the garden with enthusiasm, friendliness and a "can-do" approach. With their help we accomplished a true transformation of the garden. We appreciate the volunteers that arrived with lots of energy and the many ways they helped out.

Our partnership is so valuable and we look forward to next year's opportunity to work with your top-notch staff. This program helps us keep our Los Palmos Garden beautiful; it's a true asset to our neighborhood.

Los Palmos Garden Committee Members

Lyon Street is all cleaned up! Thank you, thank you for the wonderful response. Super work!

Irene K.



JenniferMarchSoloway 90 @marchsoloway

I am so grateful to all of these volunteer high school students for cleaning up the city. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



SF Public Works @ @sfpublicworks PRESS RELEASE - Community Clean Team: Fall Spruce Up on Saturday - 10/26/18
sfpublicworks.org/project/press

Follow

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3:23 PM - 26 Oct 2018

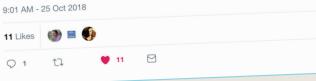




Brandon but scary 🎈 🎎 @BrandonHarami

Good morning @sfpublicworks! Thanks for making our sidewalks better! 🤎 🚶







Jean Parker School

Our K-2 students learned all about traffic & pedestrian safety with #BayAreaCommunityResources team in Ed's

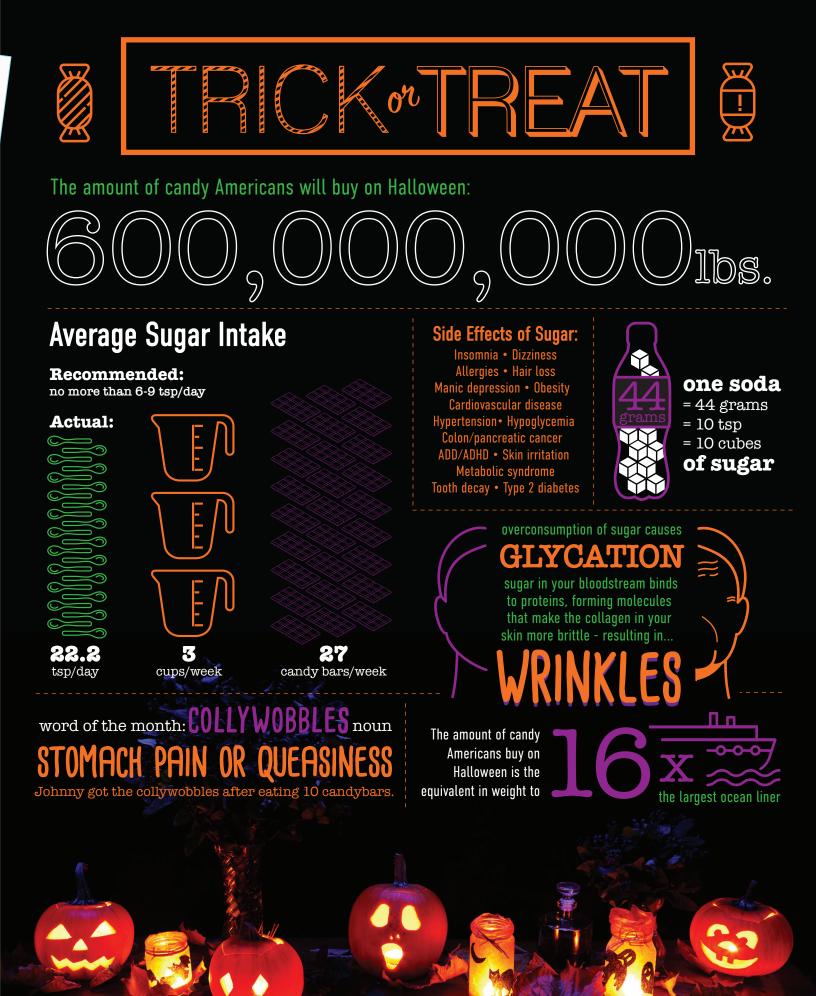
Neighborhood in partnership with @sfpublicworks .Thank you for this amazing learning setup! @VisionZeroSF #visionzero



Cleaning and action. We see action. Extra service and appreciation to Debra Aragon, born and bred San Franciscan and Robert Milton also local. Cleaning with heart and soul. @sfpublicworks maybe a raise. Facing reality is admission of a major problem and the first step in recovery



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The architecture, landscape architecture and construction management teams at Public Works got into the Halloween spirit on Oct. 31 using their creative chops to reimagine the traditional Jack o'lantern in what has become an annual tradition at our Building Design and Construction division.

















# DRILLING DOWN INTO

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Drop. Cover. And hold. For most San Franciscans, these familiar instructions

Destruction in the Marina District caused by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

## EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

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automatically roll off the tongue when asked about earthquake safety protocol. ►





In addition to our myriad daily roles cleaning streets, mai we are emergency response employees with spe



And lest we forget, we're reminded every October during the Great California ShakeOut, an earthquake drill observed by more than 10 million Golden State participants.

This year's ShakeOut was held on Oct. 18 and served as a powerful reminder for Public Works employees: In addition to our myriad daily roles cleaning streets, maintaining trees, designing buildings and paving roadways, we are emergency response employees with specific assignments following a large earthquake.

When it comes to earthquakes, the statistics and stakes are high: The USGS has forecasted a 99 percent probability of an earthquake magnitude 6.7 or greater within the next quarter century. Additionally, there's a 63 percent probability of an earthquake of that intensity in our own backyard, the Bay Area.

While we don't want to tarnish October's reputation as a time synonymous with earthquakes, it does happen to coincide with the ShakeOut drill (now in its 10th year) and the anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, which many in the Bay Area can still vividly recall. Regardless, it's a good time to evaluate and put plans in place for the day when – not if – we're faced with another big quake. In addition to reconfirming logistics for where to gather with co-workers after an earthquake, it's also prudent for San Franciscans to have a family or roommate communication plan in place.

And while technology has changed drastically since our last big quake, the basic action drill is the same as it's always been: When an earthquake hits, drop onto your hands and knees, cover your head and neck with one arm and hand and, if possible, crawl underneath a sturdy table or desk and hold on until the shaking stops.

For more earthquake resources, go to www.shakeout.org, www.earthquakesafety.com and for preparedness tools, go to SF72.org. ■

intaining trees, designing buildings and paving roadways, ecific assignments following a large earthquake.

POLK STREET IMPROVEMENTS HEADING TOWARDS A SMOOTH FINISH

Construction activity on the two-year, \$18 million <u>Polk</u> <u>Streetscape Project</u> is nearing completion as crews prepare to wrap up paving on the final few blocks of Polk Street in the coming weeks. ►

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Crews lay down fresh asphalt on Polk Street at Ellis Street.

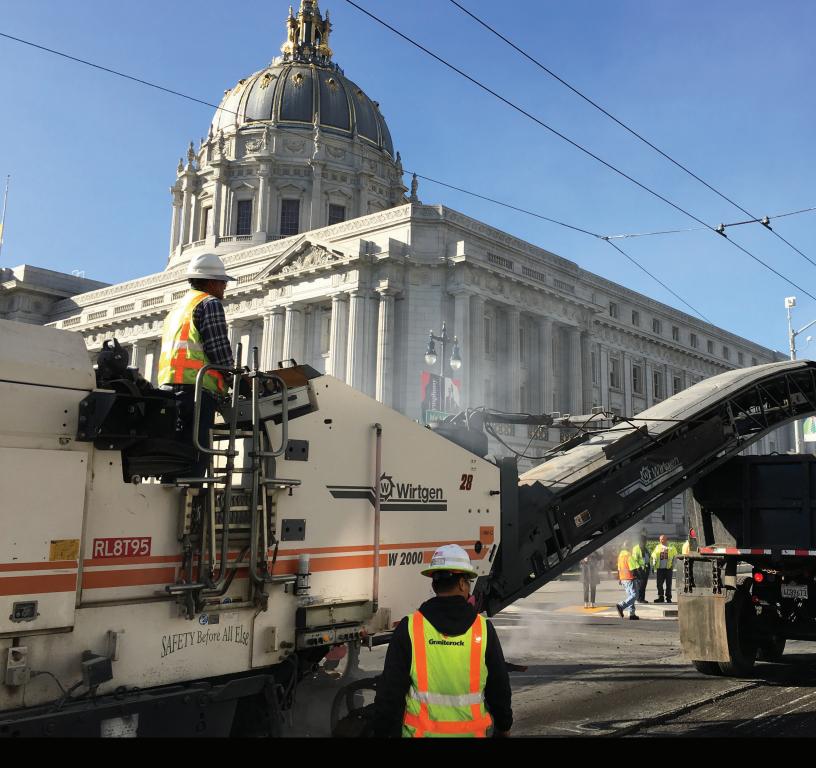
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The overall goal of the Polk Streetscape Project is to create a safe

Paving crews near the end of their street resurfacing work at McAllister Street.



Crews are actively planting trees along Polk between Jackson Street and Golden Gate Avenue and finishing construction on two enhanced alleyways off of Polk Street that are part of the Lower Polk Alleyways District Vision Plan.

The Fern Art Alley project, between Polk and Larkin streets, will feature widened sidewalks and decorative street and sidewalk art, new sidewalk and roadway paving, decorative pedestrianscale lighting, new street trees and an elevated plaza and raised crosswalk with protective bollards.

The Austin Green Alley Project, between Polk Street and Van Ness Avenue, will feature an elevated plaza and raised crosswalk at Polk with protective bollards, new sidewalk and roadway paving, new street trees and sidewalk planters, decorative roadway paving, decorative pedestrian-scale lighting and a roadway design to help slow vehicular traffic.

Polk Street is listed on San Francisco's High Injury Network, which lists the 12 percent of City streets that have 70 percent of the severe and fatal traffic incidents. The overall goal of the Polk Streetscape Project is to create a safer Polk Street for everyone who lives, works and visits the corridor. The project dovetails with the City's <u>Vision Zero</u> framework to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2024.

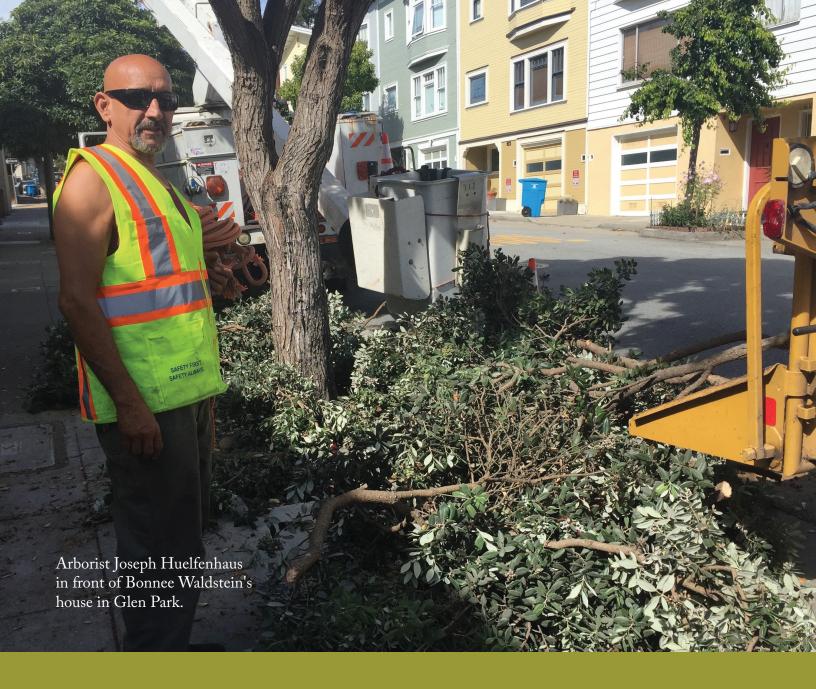
New features incorporated on Polk Street include improved signal timing, pedestrian countdown signals, additional dedicated bike lanes, high visibility crosswalks, sidewalk bulb-outs, pedestrianscale streetlights, alleyway improvements and landscaping enhancements. Public Works is managing the project.

In total, nearly 40 blocks along Polk and on side streets will be paved and more than 140 new street trees will be planted. ■

r Polk Street for everyone who lives, works and visits the corridor.

Glen Park resident Bonnee Waldstein let her neighbors know through a hyperlocal blog about her experience with <u>StreetTreeSF</u>. We wanted to share her story with a wider audience because what took place in Glen Park is happening in neighborhoods throughout San Francisco: the strategic rollout of the City's nascent program to care for the 125,000+ street trees. Here's what she said:

October 2018 - San Francisco Public Works Newsletter



"We were very pleased with the results of our tree

It's not often that you post a story of general interest and live it out yourself a couple of days later. That's what happened with the post linking to the San Francisco Chronicle story about the City's tree maintenance program.

I came home the other day, feeling pretty good about getting my flu shot and remembering to take my 20 percent discount coupons into Bed Bath & Beyond. Then I came upon an unexpected sight in front of my house.

The tree between my house and my neighbor's house was being pruned by San Francisco Public Works. Only a couple of years ago, we shared the cost (\$800) for a professional arborist to trim the tree. With the mantra 'the worst first' playing in my head, I approached Joseph Huelfenhaus, a Public Works arborist, to find out why our tree was chosen for maintenance so soon. It was neither dead nor failing, and it wasn't encroaching on any power

lines — some of the reasons street trees are given priority in the program.

As was described in The Chronicle, a detailed census has been done of the 125,000 street trees in the City. You can enter your address and find your tree on this map.

Joseph explained that the trees are tracked by a grid system. Neighbors are notified if a tree has been given priority for maintenance or removal. If a crew is on a grid that has priority trees in it, they'll check their lists to see what other trees on the grid might be listed for tending, since they're in the area anyway. It's more efficient than hopping back and forth to different areas to maintain a tree here and there.

This was the situation with our tree. In comparison to many other trees, ours was kind of OK, but many branches were drooping due to their weight. The lowerhanging ones were blocking

visibility to stop signs, and trucks were brushing against them as well. I wasn't aware of all these hazards; it took the vigilance of

I went online to the Public Works website to see what I could find out about our tree, a New Zealand Christmas, common in San Francisco and one of the recommended street trees by Friends of the Urban Forest.

<u>This page</u> has a navigable grid map where you can find the trimming schedule for your tree. Sure enough, I found our tree.

If a resident prefers to maintain their tree(s) privately, they can opt out of the City tree maintenance program through the 311 system.

In our case, we were very pleased with the results of our tree trim, and the money it will save us in the future.

Just like the earlier part of my day, things were just falling into place.

e trim, and the money it will save us in the future."





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Young volunteers clean the Lowell High School bleachers. 2

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San Francisco's southwestern District 7 neighborhoods benefited from a burst of volunteer activity, when 246 people united to ►



Our volunteers had a blast tidying up local schools, parks and commercial c



spruce up the Park Merced, West Portal, Forest Hill, Ocean View and other nearby neighborhoods at the monthly Community Clean Team event.

<u>Mayor London Breed</u> kicked off the workday, thanking volunteers for pitching in to keep San Francisco clean, and imploring others to pick up brooms and get involved.

"Part of how we take care of our city is changing our own attitudes – not littering, taking the initiative to clean up, holding one another accountable to take care of our city because this is our city, and if we don't take care of it, no one else will," Breed told the crowd, gathered at Lowell High School.

The Oct. 27 workday, hosted by Public Works and District 7 <u>Supervisor Norman Yee</u>, came just in time for Halloween. Our volunteers had a blast tidying up local schools, parks and commercial corridors ensuring they would be ready for the hundreds of trick-or-treaters.

The day's work included pruning and planting around the Lowell

campus; graffiti abatement, weeding and clearing debris along Junipero Serra Boulevard; potting native plants at Rolph Nicol Park in the Merced Manor neighborhood; weeding and trimming overgrown plants at <u>Sisterhood Gardens</u> along Brotherhood Way; and cutting back brush and removing litter from street medians on Portola Drive.

When the work wrapped up, everyone reconvened at Lowell High School, where they celebrated a job well done and enjoyed a free lunch provided by Extreme Pizza, a local Ocean View eatery located on Alemany Boulevard.

Community Clean Team will be back next month! Join us for the final event of the 2018 season on Nov. 17 when we'll be cleaning and greening the Marina, Cow Hollow, Russian Hill and other District 2 neighborhoods. As always, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the speaking program begins at 9 a.m. ■

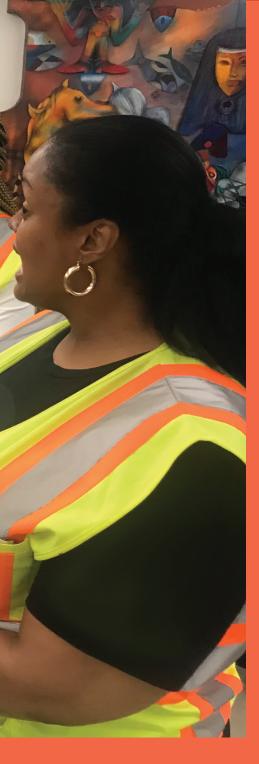
orridors ensuring they would be ready for the hundreds of trick-or-treaters.

Zero graffiti – smart solutions. That was the theme of the 2018 Graffiti Huddle, which drew together nearly 100 people to brainstorm ways to combat the costly blight. ►





San Francisco spends an estimated \$20 million or more a



The day-long session included presentations highlighting the many issues victims of graffiti vandalism across the City face, and how to address the problem and implement effective solutions.

On hand were representatives from Public Works, the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's Office, community organizers and business leaders. Vendors also showcased products that deter and remove graffiti.

District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai delivered the keynote address.

San Francisco spends an estimated \$20 million or more a year to remove graffiti from public and private property – buildings, buses, playgrounds, mailboxes, fire hydrants, sidewalks and even trees!

One of the takeaways from the event, which was hosted by the City's Graffiti Advisory Board, was that graffiti is not a victimless crime. Participants focused attention on the need to get judges to take graffiti vandalism more seriously.

The Huddle is held every two years and has provided community members with helpful resources and information that aid in the response to graffiti vandalism. As a team, we can develop solutions that help in the reduction of graffiti.

If you're interested in becoming a graffiti buster, join our Graffiti <u>Watch</u> program. After signing up, you also will receive paint to match the public property in your adopted area, graffiti remover for signs, paint brushes and buckets, paint scrapers, wet paint signs, dust masks, safety glasses, and other items. You also will receive a Graffiti Watch safety vest to identify you as a volunteer. If you want to organize a community cleanup, we will help you plan the activity and provide additional supplies.

#### year to remove graffiti from public and private property.

Church volunteers with their haul of trash after a big cleanup along Alemany Boulevard.

> The 100th Birth Assistenary of The 5114th Washington (

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"Mother's Street" C

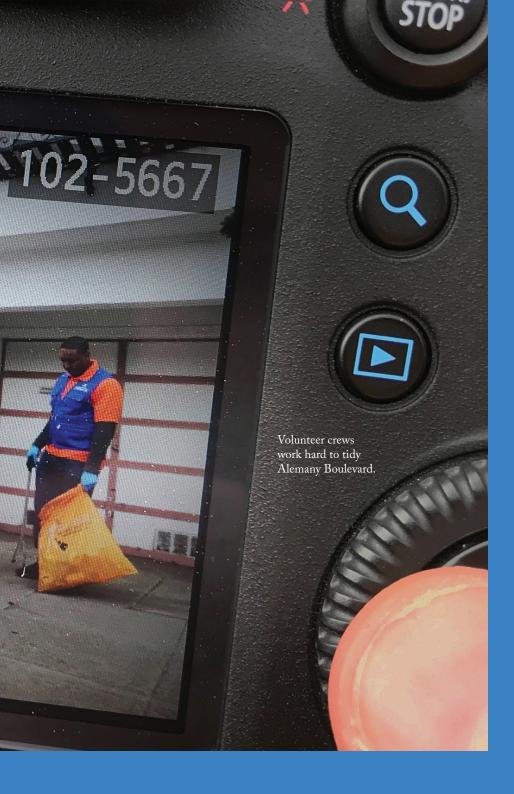
Marin Hands,

The orange Giant Sweep garbage bags filled up one by one as more than 125 volunteers picked up trash and cleared weeds along Alemany Boulevard for a community service day ►





Their work was part of the Mother's Street cleanup campaign – a



 organized by the World Mission Society Church of God, in partnership with Public Works.

Their work was part of the Mother's Street cleanup campaign – a global movement to pick up trash and improve the environment. The San Francisco group worked along Alemany Boulevard on Oct. 21, filling dozens of bags with debris and improving the corridor.

The World Mission Society Church of God group is just one of Public Works' many volunteer partners. We work with neighborhood groups, religious organizations, schools, businesses and community nonprofits to improve San Francisco through greening and cleaning projects.

And last month, more than 600 volunteers came out for the kickoff of the <u>Love Our City</u> <u>anti-litter campaign</u>. Love Our City's goal is to create a collective resolve where everyone who lives and works in San Francisco lends a hand to improve the City's diverse neighborhoods.

Find out more about how you can get involved <u>here</u>. ■

global movement to pick up trash and improve the environment.

### FINDING THE RIGHT

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stub it out

PEL

One of the six new high-tech garbage cans, this one on Market Street near UN Plaza. Public Works is piloting new high-tech garbage cans in and around UN Plaza to see how well they hold up in a tough urban environment, as we search for San Francisco's next generation of street bins.

The six Solar Street Bins, manufactured by PEL Waste Reduction Equipment, are equipped with sensors that alert us via Wi-Fi when the cans are nearing capacity and when the door is open. Powered by solar, they also have internal compactors that smash down the garbage so more trash can fit in.

Public Works is looking for new bins that are designed to make it difficult to vandalize and rummage through them. The current stock of some 3,500 garbage cans on San Francisco street corners get broken into, and their contents are strewn about by scavengers sifting through them for bottles, cans and the like. damage caused by vandals. During the test run, Public Works will assess wear and tear, user experience, ease of servicing them and the cleanliness around the cans. No major problems have surfaced during the first two weeks.

And one benefit already was observed by Public Works crews: there are fewer rats in UN Plaza because the garbage is kept contained.

Public Works will conduct another small-scale pilot using a different model, with those cans expected to hit the streets by mid-December.

The City, through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Fix-It Team, also is testing Bigbelly high-tech trash cans in several neighborhoods, including the Castro and the South of Market, in partnership with nonprofit Community Benefit District organizations.



Each bin in the six-month pilot costs just under \$1,000 and the vendor will cover any maintenance costs, including Other design options will be explored in coming months to determine the best can for San Francisco.

### Happy and Healthy Starts with You

The 12th-annual Public Works employee health fair emphasized the importance of living both healthy and happy.

Nearly 800 employees from across the department gathered at our Operations Yard on Oct. 3 for a morning jam-packed with health and fitness activities, tutorials and educational booths that helped people learn how to live a healthier and happier life, both at work and at home. Employees also were offered flu shots and bloodpressure checks.

Public Works employees are on the job 24 hours a day, every day of the year serving our great city. And in order to perform at our best, we have to properly take care of our bodies and minds. The annual health fair helps keep us on the right track.



A Department of Public Health nurse administers a flu shot to a Public Works employee at our annual health fair.

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Pumpkin or Venus flytrap? You decide. Check out more creative Jack o'lantern designs inside.

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