

in the works

January 2017



Crews remove a damaged tree that fell on Folsom Street.



CATCH PUBLIC WORKS ON SNAPCHAT!

Stay up-to-date in real time with Public Works by adding us on Snapchat – we will be sure to keep you informed and entertained with Public Works news, events and unique happenings going on all over the City. Add “Sfpublicworks” on Snapchat or scan the ghost icon using the Snapchat camera on your phone.

A message from our director

Mohammed Nuru talks about preparation and response to this month's storms.



Dear Public Works

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING the people of San Francisco with sandbags to meet the challenges of the upcoming storm. Our building has some stormwater issues that have only started to appear this week. The availability of sandbags is much appreciated by our neighbors. Best wishes for a very safe weekend protecting the City and to all the dedicated Public Works staff.

Mike S.

AS A LONG-TIME RESIDENT of the Dolores Street corridor, I have been happy to see Public Works crew members twice in the last few days driving the length of Dolores Street to pick up and remove the higher-than-usual amount of palm tree debris that has fallen onto the grassy medians/islands during this current series of rain and wind storms. All too often, this debris only gets picked up right before the grass is going to be mowed, so I am impressed with the initiative and attention to detail by the crew members!

Michael B.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for helping to remove the fallen tree at the Bernal Cut and Richland Avenue.

I'd also like to say the Public Works teams today were extraordinary; they were professional in every way: kind, communicative and amazingly good at their jobs! Hats off.

Sophie C.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your help organizing our work party on Saturday. The walk-through to get us prepared, the great tools, the packer truck and the Green Team made us much more productive.

Nicholas D.

FRI., 2/3

[Black History Month Celebration](#)

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

City Hall rotunda

SAT., 2/4

[Mansell Streetscape Improvement](#)

[Project celebration](#)

Come join the ribbon cutting for this project, which converts two lanes of vehicle traffic into permanent pedestrian- and bicycle-only pathways.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mansell St. at Visitacion Ave. in

McLaren Park

FRI., 2/9

City Hall Lunar New Year Celebration

5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco City Hall Rotunda

FRI., 2/9

[Geneva Gardens Community Garden](#)

[groundbreaking celebration](#)

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Geneva and Delano avenues

SAT., 2/11

[Sisterhood Gardens Opening Day](#)

Sisterhood Gardens on Brotherhood Way is a new community garden in the Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside neighborhood of San Francisco.

11 a.m.

I.T. Bookman Center

440 Randolph St.

I WANT TO COMMEND the city Fire Department and Public Works for their excellent response to the tree that fell on the power lines last Friday. Luckily the tree did not cause any property damage although everyone on High Street was concerned about the potential of fire or electrocution since the tree landed on the power lines.

Public Works arrived within the hour to assess the damage and immediately began the cleanup. Although they were not able to remove the entire tree, they

Upcoming Events

SAT., 2/11

[Chinese New Year Parade](#)

Started in the 1860s, the parade and festival have grown to be the largest celebration of Asian culture outside Asia.

TUES., 2/14

Valentine's Day



MON., 2/20

Presidents Day



TUE., 2/21

[Dogpatch Public Realm Plan](#)

[Streets and Streetparks Open House](#)

The City needs your help to prioritize and scope projects, such as park improvements and streetscape amenities.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Harmonic Brewing

1050 26th St.

SAT., 2/25

[Community Clean Team in District 4](#)

Keeps SF beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

worked diligently through the rain (and mud) and removed the most obstructive portions of the tree and all of the debris on the street.

Public Works's communication was timely and complete. I received a phone call and follow up email with greater detail.

I also appreciate the commitment by Chris Buck of the Urban Forestry Bureau to personally look at the remaining trees.

Wade H.

Our Pit Stop Public Toilet Program Wins a Harvard 'Bright Idea' Award

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government recognized our innovative [Pit Stop](#) public toilet program this month with a [Bright Ideas in American Government](#) award.

Our program offers people public toilets where they are needed most, resulting in cleaner streets and allowing people to relieve themselves with dignity. What makes this program different – and data shows successful – is that Pit Stops are staffed, ensuring that the bathrooms are kept safe and clean and used for their intended purpose.

The Pit Stop began as a pilot in 2014 with three locations in the Tenderloin. In April 2015, Public Works began expanding the program, one neighborhood at a time. Today, Public Works operates Pit Stops at 17 locations in eight neighborhoods, with a collective 25,000-plus uses a month.

The Pit Stops also provide dog waste stations and disposal boxes for used needles.

We partner with the nonprofit Hunters Point Family, which staffs the Pit Stops as part of a workforce development program.

The Pit Stop now joins an impressive roster of programs from all levels of government to be honored with a Bright Idea in Government award. A full list of the 2017 Bright Idea award winners can be found [here](#).

The award aims to recognize programs representing the next horizon in government work to improve services and solve problems.

“These programs demonstrate that there are no prerequisites for doing the good work of governing,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center. “Small towns and massive cities, huge federal agencies and local school districts, large budgets or no budgets at all – what makes government work best is the drive to do better.”







ON THE ROAD

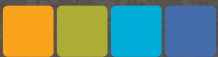
The City's regionally tracked roadway condition score is





IGHT ROAD

has continued to climb for the fifth year in a row – ►



- ▶ showing that strategic investments in paving pay off for drivers, cyclists and public transit users.

We reported a citywide average Pavement Condition Index score of 69 for 2016, up from a score of 68 in 2015. The information is tracked by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which monitors the condition of Bay Area roads.

The City's Pavement Condition Index score has increased each year for the last five years, thanks in large part to San Francisco voters' approval of the \$248 million Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond in 2011, with additional funding for paving projects added by the mayor and Board of Supervisors during the annual budget process.

The Pavement Condition Index assigns City blocks a score from a low of zero for a badly deteriorated road to a high of 100 for a freshly paved block. Public Works evaluates the impacts of wear, erosion and aging of each street, and assesses street deterioration with a rating for each of the City's 12,800-plus blocks.

A Pavement Condition Index score of 85-100 is rated as "excellent," 70-84 "good," 50-69 "at risk," and 0-49 "poor." Currently, nearly two-thirds of San Francisco blocks are rated at good or excellent; less than 15 percent are rated in the poor category.

The assessment is based on visual surveys performed by specially trained and certified staff. Each segment is evaluated based on ride quality, cracking and signs that the roadway may be breaking up in places.

The infusion of additional funding allowed for hundreds more blocks to be paved annually.

In 2016, Public Works crews and contractors resurfaced 722 blocks. Over the past five years, 3,834 blocks were treated.

"The continued improvements are a real achievement and show that voter-supported investments in our City's infrastructure pay off," Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru said. "With the dedication and the determination of the Public Works paving team, we

turned the corner from where we were a decade ago and are moving in the right direction, benefiting San Francisco residents, workers and visitors."

The average score for San Francisco roads peaked at 77 in the late 1980s and gradually down to the low point of 64, where the average score hovered for a decade. If current funding levels are maintained, the citywide average Pavement Condition Index can improve to 70 in fewer than 10 years.

Public Works' pavement strategy preserves streets in good condition instead of letting them deteriorate. Extending the life of a block in San Francisco that is in good condition currently only costs approximately \$35,000. The complete reconstruction of an average sized block in poor or very poor condition, including repairs to the concrete base and the top layer of asphalt, can be as high as \$500,000.

The City is responsible for maintaining approximately 940 miles of streets. You can find more information about the Road Repaving & Street Safety Bond [here](#). ■

WE WON'T LET THE RAIN ON OUR PA

Moscone Project Team Adeptly Handles the Rains



WET SKIES GRADE:



These days, Public Works construction manager Jim Kennedy and construction inspector Tom Pryor have been preoccupied with something they barely had to think about this time last year: the weather. ▶



Jim Kennedy assesses
aftermath of the rain on the
roof of Moscone Center.



► Hour-by-hour weather reports, five-day forecasts, even the antiquated Farmers' Almanac can help them prepare for – and secure – their chief project: the \$500 million Moscone Expansion Project, which continues to move forward despite the crew's continuous cycle of bundling up in rain gear and fervently waterproofing, tarping, draining and mopping up after the multiple storms this month.

The irony of a project that began during a drought – and is now in the throes of the wettest winter in two decades, with wind so strong it ripped their tarps — isn't lost on them, but they're deadline driven. The current phase of the convention center expansion needs to be finished by September for the Salesforce conference.

“We don't have the option of making the job longer; we have

a drop-dead completion date,” Pryor said. “If we lose time, we have to make it up.”

When Pryor, who works the early shift, arrives at the job site in the morning, he surveys the area for wet sheetrock, wet insulation and any damage to the spray-on fireproofing. He also ensures that no water has trickled into the electrical and telecom rooms, then makes the rounds in the public areas of the convention center.

The multi-phase Moscone Expansion and Improvement Project is scheduled to be completed late next year and has generated thousands of new construction jobs and permanent local jobs. Throughout construction, the center remains open – earlier this month it hosted the jam-packed Winter Fancy Food Show – something that's tough for the construction crews but critical to the City's

economy. The center generates more than one-fifth of the 16.9 million visitors who come to San Francisco each year.

In addition to adding more meeting space and ballrooms, the expansion will bring more than 8,000 square feet of new public open space. Moscone Center is on target to become one of the “greenest” convention centers in the country: It will use less space per visitor than any major convention center in North America, will save more than 5 million gallons of water annually and will generate clean energy with the its rooftop solar installation – the largest in San Francisco.

In the meantime, Mother Nature has her own agenda.

“Water's a builder's worst enemy,” states Pryor. “Most builders don't sleep well at night when they've got a project open.” ■



Our crews removed a giant tree limb that fell onto the Highland Street Bridge.



A black car is covered in a thick layer of sawdust and debris, indicating it has been struck by a falling tree. In the foreground, a large log lies on the ground, and a chainsaw with the brand name 'STIHL' is visible. The background shows a building and trees, suggesting an urban or residential area affected by a storm.

WHEN IT STORMS, PUBLIC WORKS TAKES THE RAINS

With just under 10 inches of rainfall this month, San Francisco experienced its sixth wettest January since the Gold Rush days. Add in several periods of high winds, and Public Works crews were ►



- ▶ working hard around the clock dealing with the storms.

We responded to more than 300 service requests for downed street trees and tree limbs, including many that toppled overhead wires, tumbled onto parked cars and homes and fell across roads and sidewalks. Thankfully, no one was injured. The arborist, landscape and general laborer teams went from call to call at a quick, steady and safe pace to get the job done – and often in heavy rainfall and bone-chilling temperatures.

At the Operations Yard, we handed out nearly 7,000 sandbags to San Francisco residents, who each can get up to 10 free ones to protect their property. The giveaway drew people from all across San Francisco. Our [sandbag program](#) is ongoing. We hand them out Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Works

Operations Yard; enter at the Marin Street/Kansas Street gate and please bring proof of San Francisco residency.

Before and after the rains, our employees were on the street clearing catch basins of leaves and litter to help keep the storm drains clear to keep water from building up and flooding nearby homes and businesses.

If you're interested in helping keep the catch basins clear, consider joining the [Adopt a Drain](#) program. It's a great way to help take care of your neighborhood. And you can even name the drain (or catch basin) that you adopt.

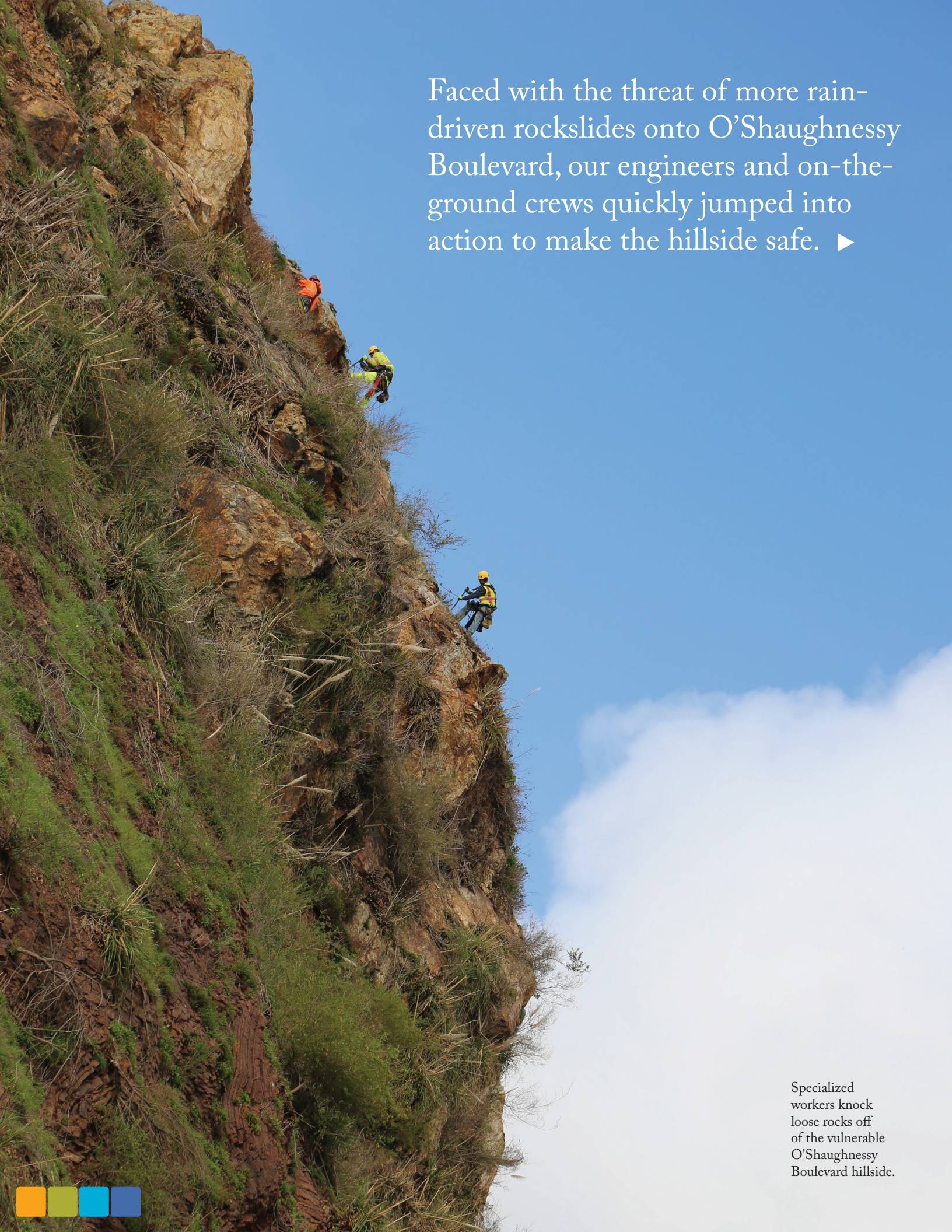
The pothole crews also saw a surge in demand to fix street defects, which proliferate during heavy rains. They responded to nearly 2,000 pothole service requests in January – about

500 more than a typical month. Our engineering team also was kept busy with mudslides and rockslides, including one onto O'Shaughnessy Boulevard that prompted an emergency declaration to shut down the road and perform hillside stabilization work to minimize the danger of falling boulders. Find out more about the rockslide in the story on the next page.

And behind the scenes, the Radio Room employees house in our Operations Yard never stopped, handling thousands of service requests that came in during the storms. The Radio Room staff triaged the requests and made sure they got to the appropriate crews in the field, as well as coordinated with other City agencies.

At the end of the day, teamwork, experience and grit displayed by Public Works served the public well. ■





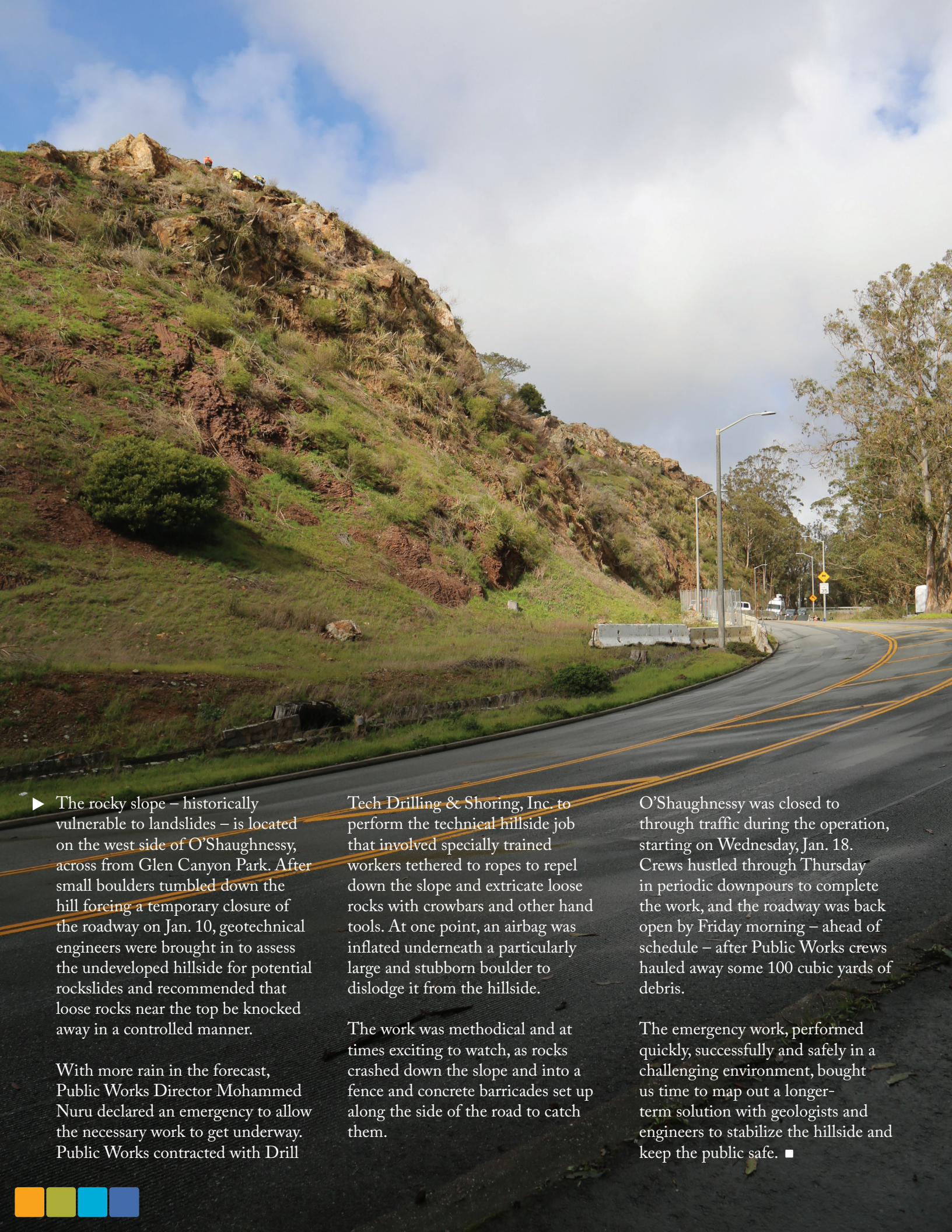
Faced with the threat of more rain-driven rockslides onto O'Shaughnessy Boulevard, our engineers and on-the-ground crews quickly jumped into action to make the hillside safe. ►

Specialized workers knock loose rocks off of the vulnerable O'Shaughnessy Boulevard hillside.



Rock

stars!



► The rocky slope – historically vulnerable to landslides – is located on the west side of O’Shaughnessy, across from Glen Canyon Park. After small boulders tumbled down the hill forcing a temporary closure of the roadway on Jan. 10, geotechnical engineers were brought in to assess the undeveloped hillside for potential rockslides and recommended that loose rocks near the top be knocked away in a controlled manner.

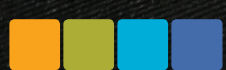
With more rain in the forecast, Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru declared an emergency to allow the necessary work to get underway. Public Works contracted with Drill

Tech Drilling & Shoring, Inc. to perform the technical hillside job that involved specially trained workers tethered to ropes to repel down the slope and extricate loose rocks with crowbars and other hand tools. At one point, an airbag was inflated underneath a particularly large and stubborn boulder to dislodge it from the hillside.

The work was methodical and at times exciting to watch, as rocks crashed down the slope and into a fence and concrete barricades set up along the side of the road to catch them.

O’Shaughnessy was closed to through traffic during the operation, starting on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Crews hustled through Thursday in periodic downpours to complete the work, and the roadway was back open by Friday morning – ahead of schedule – after Public Works crews hauled away some 100 cubic yards of debris.

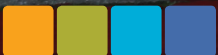
The emergency work, performed quickly, successfully and safely in a challenging environment, bought us time to map out a longer-term solution with geologists and engineers to stabilize the hillside and keep the public safe. ■





COMMUNITY CLEAN TEAM KICKS OFF A NEW SEASON

Skies were blue and energy was high, as nearly 200 volunteers gathered to celebrate the kickoff of Community Clean Team's 17th season and ►





4 PM TO 6 PM
EXCEPT SUN

3
1
2







- ▶ get to work greening and cleaning District 2 neighborhoods.

The 2017 season kickoff was held on Jan. 28 at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology. Volunteers from all over the City teamed up with Public Works crews to beautify the high school, commercial corridors and public parks in the Marina, Russian Hill and surrounding neighborhoods.

Before the work began, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell rallied the crowd and emphasized the importance of civic pride and pitching in to keep our neighborhoods clean and green.

Volunteers had a blast greening the sidewalks by planting trees along Pine, Lake, Lombard and California streets, while other teams spent their time beautifying Moscone Recreation Center and Galileo by abating graffiti, picking up litter, weeding and painting.

Once the work was complete, the volunteers joined together to share a communal meal and celebrate a morning well-spent.

Community Clean Team was introduced in 2000 as a partnership between dedicated neighbors and Public Works.

Each year since, the program has continued to grow and create a bigger impact on our neighborhoods — making it Public Works' largest and longest-running volunteer program. The program focuses on a different supervisorial district every month.

Join us on Feb. 25 as we visit District 4 to improve the Sunset and Parkside neighborhoods. As always, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the speaking program will begin at 9 a.m. For more info about Community Clean Team click [here](#) or view the season's [calendar](#) for future dates. ■

新

VERSALIFT

Our cleaners give the Chinatown Gateway a thorough scouring.



年快樂



Public Works appreciates our city's rich culture and diversity and every year before Chinese New Year our crews conduct a special cleanup to prepare for this popular spring festival that attracts tens of thousands of locals and tourists to Chinatown. ▶



► In the last couple of weeks leading up to the Jan. 28 holiday, Public Works intensively spruced up Chinatown to mark the Year of the Rooster.

The iconic Chinatown Gateway at Bush and Grant streets, an official entrance to San Francisco's famous historic neighborhood, looks stunning after a power washing by Public Works crews. We also scrubbed away the soot in the Broadway and Stockton tunnels and our workers gave the symbolic dragon lights on Grant Avenue fresh coats of red and green paint. Other improvements included washing down the streets and removing graffiti.

On top of that, we are working with the community and PG&E to replace the faded red lanterns hanging over Grant Avenue with new ones and LED lights to bright up Grand Avenue to make Chinatown safer and more beautiful at night.

In the Chinese zodiac, each year is related to an animal sign according to a 12-year cycle. The

Rooster is the tenth among the 12 animals. Years of the Rooster include 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 and 2029. Generally, people born in a Year of the Rooster are considered to be very observant, hard-working, resourceful, courageous, and talented. Roosters are not shy to show confidence in themselves.

There are many traditions still exercised by Chinese people around the world during the Chinese New Year celebrations. For example, as we are entering a new year, the Chinese believe that bad luck, misfortune and burdens from the previous year can be cleared by having a thorough cleanup of their homes, offices, businesses and neighborhoods. This will bring a fresh start and draw prosperity in the New Year.

Public Works is honored to do our part to help drive out the bad luck.

In addition to the cleaning efforts, we also celebrated the sixth year of the Stockton Street Pedestrian Enhancement Program – a

partnership between City agencies and the Chinatown community. Merchants on Stockton Street were allowed to use the parking lane in front of their stores to display merchandise between Jan. 14 and Jan. 27. Our inspectors were on hand to ensure pedestrians were kept safe along the busy commercial corridor.

To accommodate the New Year activities and the crowds they draw, the City enacted a moratorium on several construction projects taking place in Chinatown, among them Central Subway, Broadway Streetscape Improvement, and Spofford Green Alley. Construction will start back up again after the Chinese New Year Parade on Feb. 11.

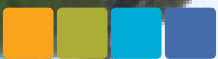
Public Works is proud to help provide a safe and pleasant environment to neighbors, shoppers and visitors in Chinatown and our beautiful city. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous Year of the Rooster! Gung Hay Fat Choy! ■

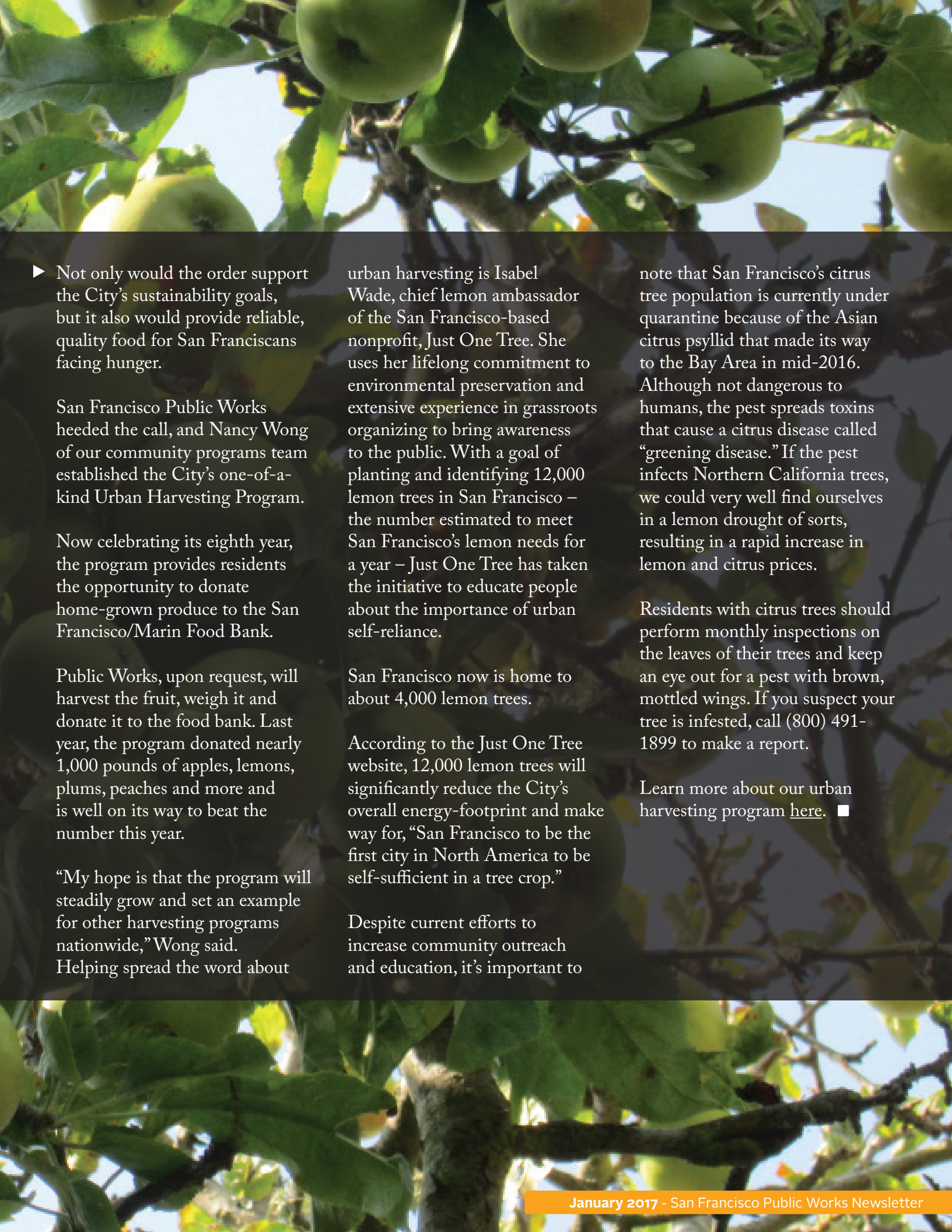


A person wearing blue gloves and a maroon long-sleeved shirt is using a long-handled orange harvesting basket to pick fruit from a tree in a backyard garden. The tree is lush with green leaves and several ripe oranges. The background shows a wooden fence and other garden plants, including a stone planter with yellow and pink flowers. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Harvesting Community

Then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order in 2009 asking all City departments to find space, from backyards to rooftops, which had the potential of being converted into farming grounds for produce. ►



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- ▶ Not only would the order support the City's sustainability goals, but it also would provide reliable, quality food for San Franciscans facing hunger.

San Francisco Public Works heeded the call, and Nancy Wong of our community programs team established the City's one-of-a-kind Urban Harvesting Program.

Now celebrating its eighth year, the program provides residents the opportunity to donate home-grown produce to the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank.

Public Works, upon request, will harvest the fruit, weigh it and donate it to the food bank. Last year, the program donated nearly 1,000 pounds of apples, lemons, plums, peaches and more and is well on its way to beat the number this year.

"My hope is that the program will steadily grow and set an example for other harvesting programs nationwide," Wong said. Helping spread the word about

urban harvesting is Isabel Wade, chief lemon ambassador of the San Francisco-based nonprofit, Just One Tree. She uses her lifelong commitment to environmental preservation and extensive experience in grassroots organizing to bring awareness to the public. With a goal of planting and identifying 12,000 lemon trees in San Francisco – the number estimated to meet San Francisco's lemon needs for a year – Just One Tree has taken the initiative to educate people about the importance of urban self-reliance.

San Francisco now is home to about 4,000 lemon trees.

According to the Just One Tree website, 12,000 lemon trees will significantly reduce the City's overall energy-footprint and make way for, "San Francisco to be the first city in North America to be self-sufficient in a tree crop."

Despite current efforts to increase community outreach and education, it's important to

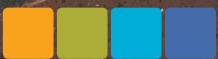
note that San Francisco's citrus tree population is currently under quarantine because of the Asian citrus psyllid that made its way to the Bay Area in mid-2016. Although not dangerous to humans, the pest spreads toxins that cause a citrus disease called "greening disease." If the pest infects Northern California trees, we could very well find ourselves in a lemon drought of sorts, resulting in a rapid increase in lemon and citrus prices.

Residents with citrus trees should perform monthly inspections on the leaves of their trees and keep an eye out for a pest with brown, mottled wings. If you suspect your tree is infested, call (800) 491-1899 to make a report.

Learn more about our urban harvesting program [here](#). ■

NO IFS,
ANDS

OR
BUTTS





Did you know that cigarette butts are the most commonly littered item in San Francisco – harming wildlife and the environment? They are and we're glad that volunteers from Salesforce and the Surfrider Foundation took action.

To celebrate the installation of a new cigarette butt recycling station – outside the Salesforce East building at 350 Mission St. – more than 25 volunteers picked up butts within a six-block radius in the Financial District. They tackled Market, Beale, Mission and Fremont streets.



Cigarette smokers in the area are encouraged to dispose of their cigarette butts in the new recycling container, the contents of which will be sent to [TerraCycle](#), an organization that aims to recycle everyday items that aren't easily recyclable.

Many of the Salesforce staff that volunteered included interns and recent college graduates or new hires, as part of the Salesforce college recruiting program.

You, too, can help out: the Surfrider Foundation San Francisco Chapter has an ongoing [Hold on to Your Butt](#) campaign, designed to get butts off our streets and beaches to protect our oceans, waterways and drinking water.

Cigarette butts are very difficult to pick up because they get caught in cracks and crevices and often must be plucked up one by one.

Join Surfrider at its next beach cleanup, or contact Public Works to host your own [volunteer](#) event.



9th-Annual NEN Awards

HONORING SAN FRANCISCO'S COMMUNITY HEROES



Graffiti fighting
superstar Karla Jones



The Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) Awards are San Francisco's way of honoring and celebrating the work of residents and organizations who make our city an amazing place to live. Every year, community members and City officials gather in City Hall to honor these civic heroes.

One award category extra close to our heart is the "Most Inspiring Public Works Volunteer," which this year went to Karla Jones. Jones has been a Public Works Graffiti Watch member since March 2015 and works diligently abating graffiti on public property in her Middle Polk neighborhood. She also keeps an eye on the area and reports any issues she comes across while on her rounds.

In the Works gave Jones a call to ask her how she got involved with graffiti abatement.

"When I first moved to San Francisco seven years ago, I joined my neighborhood group, the Middle Polk Neighborhood Association," said Jones. "Graffiti Watch offered graffiti training and I really enjoyed it. It's like how you feel while cleaning your closet or sweeping the kitchen floor. I like the look of a neighborhood when its graffiti free – that's why I do it. We keep our houses clean and our neighborhood is an extension of our house. Also, I'm retired so it's nice to get out in the sunshine!"

Public Works appreciates Jones and all the volunteers who go out not only in the sunshine, but all the time cleaning their neighborhood, reporting problems and beautifying San Francisco.

Congratulations to all the NEN award recipients – you make our city great!

This year's NEN Award categories and winners are:

Outstanding Neighborhood Watch Group:
Newton-Morse-Curtis Neighborhood Watch

Exemplary NERT Leadership:
Anietie Ekanem

Exemplary ALERT Leadership:
Ken Craig

Most Empowering City Employee of the Year:
Victoria Weatherford

Youth Neighborhood Leadership:
Erick Lopez

Most Inspiring Public Works Volunteer:
Karla Jones

Comeback Neighborhood of the Year:
The Outer Sunset

Best Community Challenge Grant Project:
Kenny Alley Stairs Project

Best Merchant Association/Community Benefit District:
Castro / Upper Market Community Benefit District

Outstanding Park Volunteer Group:
Friends of Franklin Square Park

NEN Lifetime Achievement:
Mary C. Harris

NEN Hall of Fame:
Espanola Jackson

Extraordinary Neighborhood Block Party:
Quesada Neighborfest 2016



SAFETY FIRST.
SAFETY ALWAYS.

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC WORKS



Meet **Jon Beazor**



Public Works street cleaning crew member Jon Beazor helps care for this neighborhood.

Meet **Christian Calinsky**



Taking It to the Streets' Christian Calinsky helps care for this neighborhood.







Our motto:
Safety first.
Safety always.





On Nov. 10 of last year we reached a major milestone: 1,000 days of no injuries resulting in lost work time among our Bureau of Building Repair staff – a record at Public Works. We're happy to report that the record is still mounting as we head into February.

The last record was 301 days.

Our Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair also has set a new in-house record of no lost workdays due to injuries, now at 350 and counting.

The previous best was 296 days. When you consider the work these crews do: climbing into sewers, paving streets, fixing potholes, standing on ladders, working with saws and hammers, carrying heavy sheetrock and performing other tasks that involve physical labor, the achievement is outstanding.

A goal of ours is for our employees to leave work in the same or better shape than when they arrived. It's good for them, their families and the people of

San Francisco who rely on Public Works to get the job done.

Working safely takes work. Employees need to be properly trained on work-safety practices and make sure they use them every time they do a job. It takes individual determination and teamwork. Earlier this month, we held a celebration lunch on Treasure Island to honor the Building Repair and Street and Sewer Repair crews and to say thank you for making safety a top priority.

Deborah Aragon, a laborer apprentice, on the job in the Mission clearing catch basins before a storm. "I was born and raised in the City. If I get to clean it, that's a plus."

