

# in the works

May 2018

A St. Marys magnolia tree honoring the late Mayor Ed Lee grows on a newly constructed median with a stunning view of City Hall. See story inside.





# EVENTS

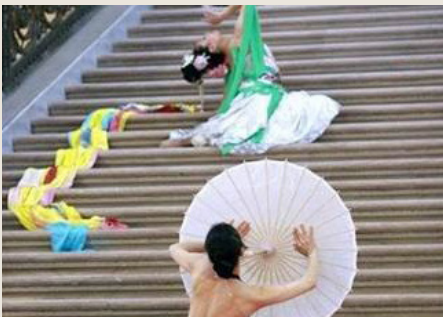


6/3

## Sunday Streets Sunset Golden Gate Park

Sunday Street's longest route runs through the Outer Sunset and parts of Golden Gate Park, following the City's western edge along the scenic Great Highway, providing car-free streets and fun, free activities for all.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



6/8

## Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company

You're invited to the free Rotunda Dance Series as it continues with a performance by the Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company. The company will reprise two Isadora Duncan Dance Award-winning works: Postcards & Beyond, created especially for City Hall's rotunda; and Silk Cascade, a piece inspired by the action painting of Jackson Pollock and the strokes of Chinese calligraphy.

12 p.m.  
San Francisco City Hall Rotunda



6/16

## Volunteer with Clean Team in District 9

Community Clean Team is our longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods. We need your help to keep our city clean and green in 2018. Join us and volunteer!

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
John O'Connell High School  
2355 Folsom St.



6/17

## Stern Grove Festival

Celebrate Father's Day in the Grove at The Big Picnic! Kick off the summer season with a soulful Sunday featuring two R&B greats, Peabo Bryson and Jeffrey Osborne.

The concert is free! Tickets are not required. Seating in the concert meadow is first-come, first-served.

2 p.m.  
19th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard



6/17

## Father's Day



6/21

## Commons Block Party

The 2018 Commons Block Party series features free live music, art, food and activities in Civic Center, Fulton Street and UN plazas.

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Civic Center Plaza



6/24

## San Francisco Pride Parade

San Francisco Pride is one of the oldest and largest LGBTQIA parades in the world with more than 100,000 spectators.

10:30 a.m.  
Market Street, from The Embarcadero  
to Civic Center

# SPRINGTIME IS ALLERGY TIME



**\$18 billion** spent to treat allergy symptoms in the U.S. annually.



**1 in 5**

people in the U.S. suffer from some type of allergy.

Allergies are triggered when the immune system reacts to allergens like:



pollen



mold



dust mites



pet dander



ragweed



Rising temperatures lead to longer allergy seasons and can make air pollution worse.



**#dontsleepwithpollen**

Showering at night removes pollen from your hair before you go to bed.



Properly washing the inside of your nose with a saline solution can reduce your symptoms to airborne allergens.

pollen can travel by wind

**400 miles**

from its original source.

**EAT LOCALLY**



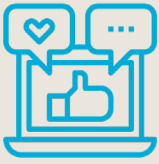
to gradually expose the body to allergens which could immunize a person against allergies.

word of the month:

**STERNUTATION**

NOUN. THE ACT OF SNEEZING.






# SOCIAL MEDIA

**Nature in the City**  
@natureinsf

Following

In bustling downtown San Francisco's Market Street, John D from @sfpublicworks noticed a Western Swallowtail Butterfly today! Thanks for sharing this photo with us. Learn more about Tigers here: [natureinthecity.org/tigers](http://natureinthecity.org/tigers)




6:47 PM - 15 May 2018 from San Francisco, CA

**Jean Parker School**  
@sfusdjeanparker

Following

Learned so much about the important work of @sfpublicworks. Here's the link on the unveiling of Ed's Neighborhood #visionzerosf at our school last month with Supervisor @NormanYeeSF and our @SFUSD\_Supe watch til end for ribbon cutting

**Public Works TV : EP.0026 - Ed's Neighborhood**  
Take a walk with us through Ed's Neighborhood, a custom-built, interactive streetscape designed to teach grade-schoolers how to safely navigate our streets. ...  
youtube.com



12:17 PM - 5 May 2018

2 Retweets 5 Likes

**Andy Thornley**  
@aphornley

Following

So very pleased to find fresh pavement in the Anza St — 23rd Ave intersection, smooth times on my Saturday morning errands, thank you @sfpublicworks! @sfmta\_muni @sfbike @SandraLeeFewer



1:07 PM - 12 May 2018

**Dogpatch Block Party**  
@DogpatchStFest

Following

Thank you for your hard work in keeping our city amazing. 🙌🙌🙌

**SF Public Works** @sfpublicworks  
Hot Spots crews on the job cleaning the Mission early in the morning as #SF wakes up.



4:10 PM - 23 May 2018 from San Francisco, CA

**Bruce Agid**  
@BruceAgidSF

Following

Wonderful! Thank you so much @mayoredlee for your amazing leadership and career of public service on our behalf!

**SF Public Works** @sfpublicworks  
Lovely magnolia tree took root today in honor of @mayoredlee within view of #SF City Hall. @MrCleanSF @EdReiskin @MarkFarrellSF



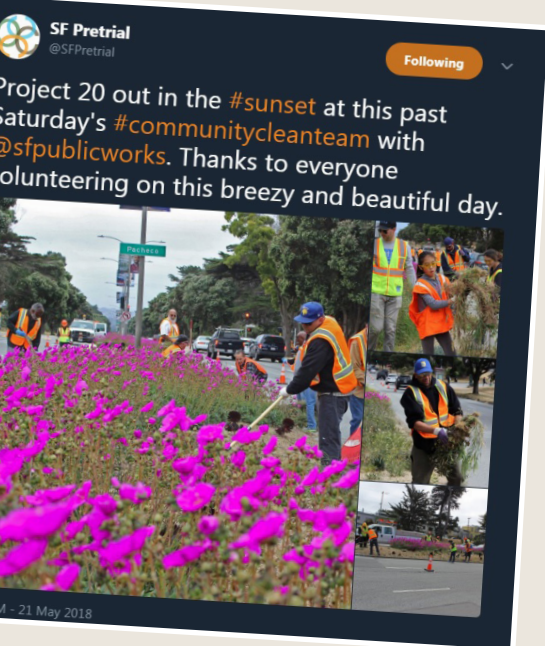
2:20 PM - 5 May 2018 from Louisville, KY

SFPUBLICWORKS.ORG





# THANK YOU



I would like to congratulate everyone for the fine work they performed at La Playa Park. Many of the needed feats could not be performed without the help of Public Works. They included lifting heavy slabs of concrete and digging out deeply cemented ornamentation and clearing other unwanted debris. Special thanks also go out to some of our locals. Anthony Locher directed the pruning and digging that went on at La Playa Park North. Jeff Sammon engineered the recreation of one of our unique granite slab benches. Beverly Mann and Andres Chavja helped me complete the tasks for which their help was greatly needed. We also applaud the staffers of Public Works who worked feverishly to coordinate this successful endeavor.

Steve W.  
La Playa Park Coalition

Just received the email with the photos. What a great surprise to see this work repainting the stripes on our track done on Saturday. This was on our wish list and I am thrilled to see that it became a reality. It looks fantastic and I know the teachers and students will appreciate the work.

Principal Lee  
Sunset Elementary School

Echoing my THANKS to everyone at the Public Works team! Each time we get to work alongside San Francisco Public Works, I have a much deeper appreciation for all the work that you all do. Thank you for all that you do not just for these Clean Team events, but every single day!

Katy Tang  
District 4 Supervisor

Last night we noticed the new trash cans that were placed at 15th Street and South Van Ness, we also walked Rincon with the Community Benefit District and were happy you were able to give them keys to the trash cans so quickly. On top of that, you and your team worked hard to get the tent situation cleared up at Esmeralda Slide!

We just want to say "THANK YOU" for your responsiveness, professionalism and care for our residents - it really makes a difference for residents and simultaneously honors and uplifts the reputation of not only Public Works, but the entire City!

You are appreciated!

Sandra, Ian and the Fix-it Team



Dear SF Public Works (Engineering),

Thank you for letting us in this fun educational field trip! What I learned about you was different types of engineering and how to build cities. I enjoyed building, watching people buildings getting shaken (earthquake) and also how you guys really participated with us building our own city! My MOST favorite part of this field trip was how we get this treat and some goodies. I hope you enjoyed us at this wonderful learning of the whole field trip!

Sincerely,  
Graciela Truery



# Public Works Week 2018

Last month, 4th- and 5th-grade students from Lafayette Elementary School attended our annual Design and Engineering Open House where students had the opportunity, under the guidance of our architects and engineers, to design their own cities and put them through an earthquake resiliency test. Here's a sampling of some of their charming thank you notes. If you'd like to read more, check out our [link](#) on Flickr.

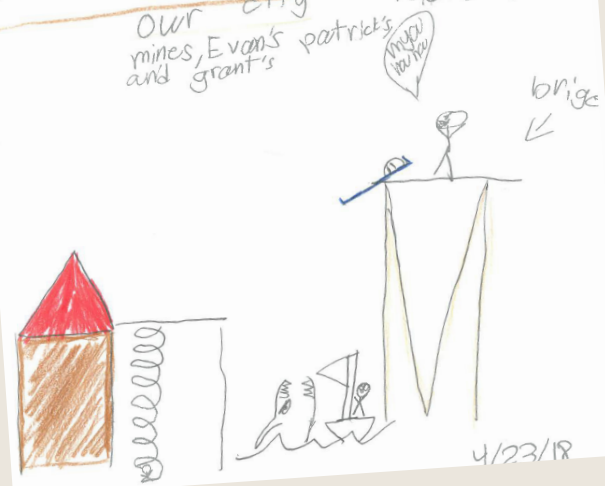
Dear Public SF. Works (engineering)

I want to thank you for getting stuff out of the way just to teach us how engineering works. I learned that you cant just have one type of job to build a skyscraper, you need multiple. I enjoyed building our own city! Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Michael

Our city  
mines, Evans, patricks  
and grant's

4/23/18



DEAR PUBLIC WORKS,

I had fun learning about the pipes and sewage in SAN FRANCISCO. I ALSO ENJOYED BUILDING THE CITIES. MY FAVORITE PART WAS SHAKING THE CITIES WE BUILT.

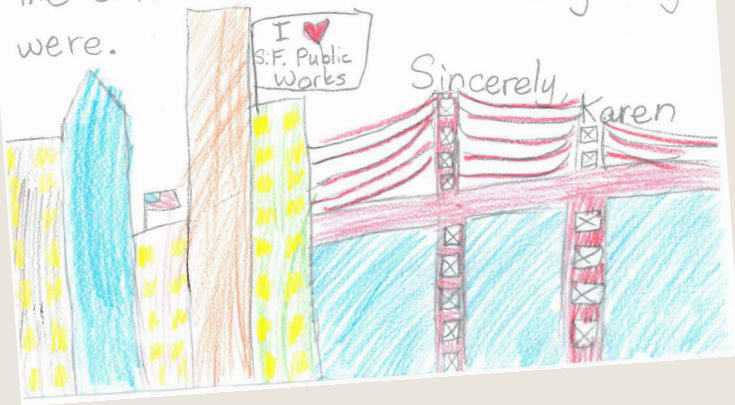
SINCERELY, ALOX

4/23/18



4-23-18

Dear S.F. Public Works,  
Thank you for letting my class and I come over to learn how buildings are made and what you have to do so the building doesn't fall during an earthquake. It was really kind of you for giving us snacks and a gift bag. This field trip was really fun and interesting. My favorite part of it was when we were shaking the cities to see how strong they were.



4/23/18

Dear: Public Works,  
Thank you for inviting us to this amazing trip! You have made me think, "You have my gratitude." This is a fantastic privilege to learn, and have fun with you. It is also a great honor to meet you, Public Works! You have made streets, made water come to our house, make traffic lights for people to cross, You have just done so much for us. And, even a worker (or two) rested on that day to give us some fun time! You are the best!



Dear SF. Public Works (Engineering),

4/23/18

I am glad that I learned about engineering today on this field trip I never knew that there were so many types of engineers. I learned about how and why people built buildings like that one thing that I enjoyed was making a transparent house. It was really cool! My favorite part of the field trip is when we made our cities. Everybody's cities were so creative, like San Francisco and that one that everybody died.

Sincerely,  
Lewis Lee



Dear S.F. Public Works (Engineering) 4/23/18

Thank you so much for letting our class to come to your work places. I learned that there is a lot of pipes and plumbing in the city. Also I learned how to make things sturdy like buildings and other structures. I think that it is cool what you people do for our city.



# PUBLIC WORKS



PUBLIC WORKS  EP.0029

## Heart of the Matter



**SIGN UP**



*EPISODE 0029 - 5/25*

*Heart of the Matter*

There are currently more than 7,000 homeless individuals in the City and Public Works and our partner agencies are working hard to find appropriate solutions to this sensitive issue in San Francisco. In this episode our director is getting down to the heart of the matter with Jennifer Friedenbach, the executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness. Tune in to hear their insightful conversation and to learn more about what the City has planned to get more people into housing and off the streets.



## EPISODE 0028 - 5/18

### Talkin' Trash (Cans)

Public Works is exploring a new pilot program that places sensors into our City trash cans to let us know when it's time to empty them before they get too full. Tune in to learn more about this innovative technology we're using to deal with overflowing cans.



## EPISODE 0027 - 5/11

### Keep On Truckin'

At Public Works we have a large fleet of trucks and other vehicles that our crews use to get the job done. This week, we're taking you to our Operations Yard with Sean Lange, our lead truck driver in dispatch, and Alex, a curious third grader, to learn more about our fleet.



## EPISODE 0026 - 5/4

### Ed's Neighborhood

Take a walk with us through Ed's Neighborhood, a custom-built, interactive streetscape designed to teach grade-schoolers how to safely navigate our streets. In this episode, we'll take you behind the scenes, introduce you to the designers and builders, and join Jean Parker Elementary School students on the inaugural tour.



# A Tremendous Tribute to Mayor Lee



Mayor Edu  
Arbor



Each year, Public Works plants a signature tree in honor of a civic or cultural leader who exemplifies San Francisco's values of equality, stewardship and inclusiveness. ►

Public Works leaders and staffers from the Bureau of Urban Forestry show their pride in the new tree they planted and median they built to honor the late Mayor Ed Lee.



Community members and City representatives help plant this year's signature tree.



After the tree went in, colorful flowers were planted in the surrounding bed.



**“With this living tribute in the heart of the city, our beloved mayor will be with us forever.”**

*Mayor Edwin Mah L. ...  
Arbor Day 2018*



- ▶ This year's tree, a beautiful St. Mary's magnolia, was dedicated to Edwin Mah Lee, who served as the City's 43rd mayor. The tree is located on a new median our cement crews constructed on Fulton Street, across the street from Civic Center Plaza and within view of City Hall.

Lee's family, friends, colleagues and community partners took part in the planting celebration on May 5, which would have been Lee's 66th birthday.

Lee worked tirelessly to champion civil rights, diversity, neighborhood livability and San Francisco's standing as a Sanctuary City. He stabilized and grew the economy under his watch and added new housing. He served as San Francisco's first Chinese-American mayor from Jan. 11, 2011 to December 12, 2017. He died of a heart attack with two years left on his term.

During his long tenure with the City in his roles as Public Works Director, City Administrator and Mayor, Lee often participated with joy in the annual signature tree planting event.

The magnolia tree, which has both beautiful, blossoming flowers and tough, sturdy leaves, represents a symbol of nobility and purity.

"With this living tribute in the heart of the Civic Center, the spirit of our beloved mayor will be with us for

generations to come," said Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate the life of my dear friend and former boss than planting a tree that embodies the admirable characteristics of an impassioned leader."

Past honoree of Public Works signature trees include Dr. Espanola Jackson; Irene Crescio; the Brown twin sisters, Marian and Vivian; Nelson Mandela; Sandra Cuadra; Wangari Maathai; Charlie Starbuck; Rosa Parks; Cesar Chavez; Ruth Asawa; Dr. Ellen Wolf; Dana Woldow; and Rose Pak. ■

part of the Civic Center, the spirit of  
in us for generations to come."

Flower







# Power!

San Francisco's public spaces have come alive with colorful spring flowers. They can be found blooming in every neighborhood, delighting people, bees and butterflies with the visual symphony of reds, oranges, yellows, pinks and purples in sunny sidewalk gardens in the Mission District, pocket parks in the South of Market and in the dunes along the Great Highway. The City's planted roadway medians offer some of the most spectacular blossoms. Enjoy them in their full majesty!

Sunset District















# Bay to Breakers Clean

Public Works was front and center of this year's Bay to Breakers – fielding a full contingent of ►





**cleanup: 5 hours, 7.8 tons**



Public Works crews cleaned Fell Street as race participants and revelers make their way to Golden Gate Park.



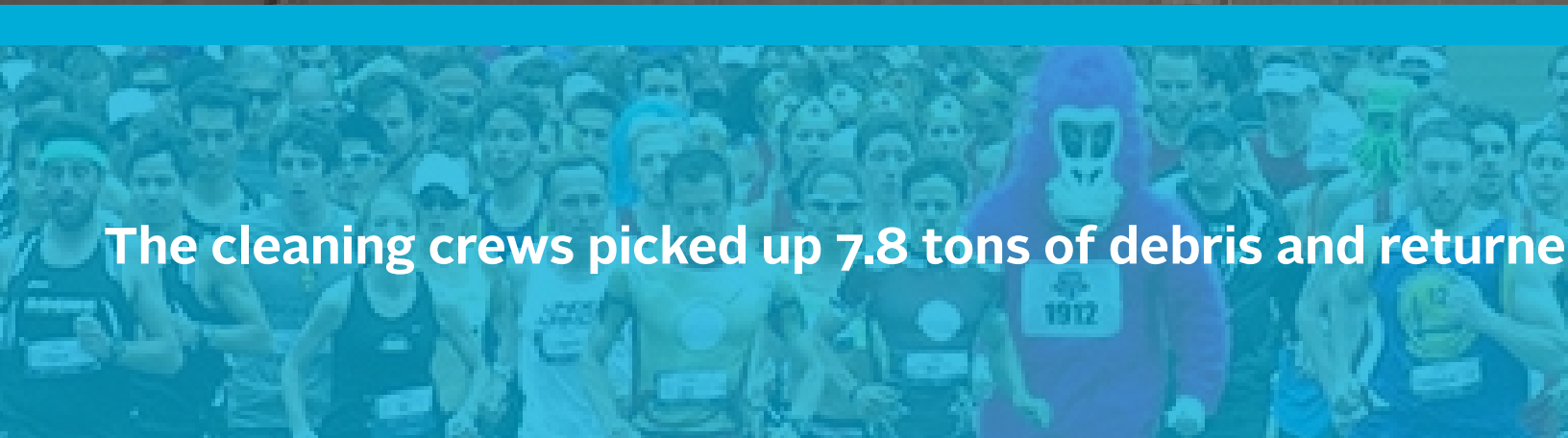


Public Works employees were stationed at our Department Operations Center the day of the race.





A team of employees, friends and family participated in the race wearing costumes and Public Works gear.



**The cleaning crews picked up 7.8 tons of debris and returned**



- ▶ street cleaners and support staff and even a team of 84 race participants representing our organization.

The annual event, which is part footrace, part moving party, draws hundreds of thousands of racers and onlookers and is one of our biggest operations of the year.

We had 65 field workers on the ground on the May 20 race day, using brooms, shovels, rakes and blowers, as well as trucks sweeping and flushing the streets, to get the route clean. We also had 34 people staffing the Department Operations Center at our Operations Yard to coordinate the highly choreographed cleanup effort.

The cleaning crews picked up 7.8 tons of debris and returned the streets to normal operations in an amazing five hours. That's 25 minutes faster than last year. ■



**and the streets to normal operations in an amazing five hours.**

A person wearing a blue puffer jacket is sitting under a concrete bridge structure, looking at a laptop. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from below, possibly from the laptop screen or an opening in the bridge. The bridge has several circular holes in its surface.

# Talkin'

Every year, Public Works receives more than 10,000 complaints about overflowing public trash cans on San Francisco sidewalks. ►



A photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a blue puffer jacket, working on a dark, industrial structure. A large, bright circular opening is visible in the background. The word "Trash" is overlaid in large, bold, green letters across the center of the image. The person's feet, wearing shoes with a "NORDIENSEN" logo, are visible in the lower left.

# Trash





► Although the City's 3,500-plus public trash cans provide an appropriate place for people to toss small pieces of garbage, they also are susceptible to scavenging and overflow, which in turn invites unwanted pests and makes our sidewalks grimy.


To combat the problem, we recently launched a pilot program that places sensors inside our City trash cans to let us know when it's time to empty them. Want to learn more? Check out our Public Works TV episode, [Talkin' Trash](#). ■

# SUNSET

# SPRUCE UP

Students and faculty of Sunset  
School were pleasantly surprised  
their campus looked when





Sunset Elementary  
amazed by how amazing  
they arrived ▶

Youth volunteers  
paint new track  
lines at Sunset  
Elementary School.



Dedicated community members spruce up the planter boxes in front of Sunset Elementary School.





The improvements were thanks to many of our volunteers who participated in our May 19 Community Clean-up.







- ▶ for classes one recent Monday morning: The planter boxes at the entrance were weed-free and spread with fresh mulch; the grounds were clean and, most impressively, the track lines on the blacktop sparkled with a fresh coat of white paint.

The improvements were made thanks to more than 200 volunteers who joined us for our May 19 Community Clean Team event in the Sunset District. Not only did the school get some tender loving care, but so did the busy commercial corridors along Irving Street, Noriega Street, Taraval Street and 19th Avenue. Other worksites included the medians on Sunset Boulevard, the community garden at La Playa Park and other areas in the neighborhood.

Volunteers, who worked alongside Public Works crews, weeded, removed graffiti, freshened landscaped areas,

picked up litter and took on other tasks to improve the Sunset's shared public spaces.

District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang, who represents the area, joined in on the fun and donned a jumpsuit before abating graffiti on the Irving Street utility poles. She later joined volunteers from the Community Youth Center of San Francisco to mulch medians at 48th Avenue and Taraval Street.

Established in 2000, Community Clean Team is Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program. The next workday will be held in the District 9 neighborhoods of the Mission, Bernal Heights and Portola on June 16.

Volunteers will gather at 8:30 a.m. at John O'Connell High School, 2355 Folsom St. For more details and to register, go to [sfpublicworks.org/volunteer](http://sfpublicworks.org/volunteer). ■

**more than 200 volunteers who joined  
Community Clean Team event in the Sunset District.**



# City Applies Brakes to Unpermitted Motorized Scooters

San Franciscans are creative when it comes to getting around, but devotees of the zippy rental scooters that landed on our sidewalks a few months ago will need to be patient: Shared power scooters will be banned from streets for much of June as the City reviews applications for a pilot permit program for the companies that operate them.

Since three companies, Spin, LimeBike and Bird, began dropping off logoed scooters on City sidewalks in March, Public Works has impounded more than

500 that were obstructing the pedestrian path of travel on public sidewalks. Additionally, more than 1,800 complaints flooded 311 from residents who experienced near-miss collisions with daredevil riders or nearly tripped over the scooters left in front of entrances to their homes and businesses or in bus stops and on curb ramps.

The scooter frenzy prompted City agencies to act quickly and collaboratively. On May 24, Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, City Attorney Dennis Herrera

and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Director of Transportation Ed Reiskin held a [press conference](#) announcing the [Powered Scooter Share Permit Program](#), spurred by a new City law passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors that requires companies to obtain a permit before their scooters can be parked on sidewalks and other public spaces.

The law goes into effect on June 4, which means the scooter companies will need to comply by turning off their rental apps until



permits are granted. The deadline to apply is June 7 and permits should be issued by the end of the month. In the meantime, as SFMTA reviews the applications, the streets should be scooter-free, save those owned by individuals.

In the first six months of the pilot, a total of 1,250 scooters may be permitted. If successful, another 1,250 may be permitted in the subsequent six months. In addition to a paying a sizable fee to operate, the scooter companies must prove how they will minimize the impact of

scooters on sidewalks, provide user education, be insured, share trip data with the City and have a privacy policy that safeguards the users of the scooter rental apps.

The pilot conceivably could be a win-win for the City and the companies seeking to serve people who are looking for an alternative mode of transportation.

At Public Works, our focus continues to be on safety in the public right of way.



# We Bike SF!

May is national bike month, and on Thursday, May 10, thousands of San Franciscans took part in Bike to Work Day by trading in their Clipper cards and car keys for a helmet. ▶





**Bike to Work Day promotes the use of bicycles  
to make navigating our streets on two wheels**

*EVERY DAY IS  TO WORK*



- ▶ The annual springtime event, which is hosted by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, is the biggest day of the year for biking in San Francisco and is celebrated in all of our neighborhoods. Among the energetic cyclists were dozens of Public Works staffers.

San Francisco always knows how to have fun and Bike to Work Day was no exception. Scattered throughout the City were organized commuter convoys, energizer stations that provided free snacks and cycling-related goodies, and a Civic Center rally that celebrated biking and all its benefits. We hosted a commuter hub at Mechanics Plaza.

Bike to Work Day promotes the use of bicycles and highlights San Francisco's efforts to make navigating our streets on two wheels convenient, safe and enjoyable for all. In recent years, Public Works, in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal

Transportation Agency, has made great progress in enhancing the cycling experience: We've added more bike lanes, converted existing unprotected bike lanes to protected ones, repaved hundreds of roads and filled thousands of potholes, and, as a city, worked with private companies to significantly increase the number of shared bikes and loading dock stations.

Bike to Work Day and Walk to Work Day, which took place in April, give folks the opportunity to learn about and practice eco-friendly transportation alternatives. Not only are biking and walking good for the body, they also are good for the environment and help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutions.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the festivities, and we hope to see you back on that saddle sometime soon! ■

cles and highlights San Francisco's efforts to  
els convenient, safe and enjoyable for all.

Proud family members celebrate  
the commemoration of the  
Mel Baker Conference Room at  
the Public Works Operations Yard.



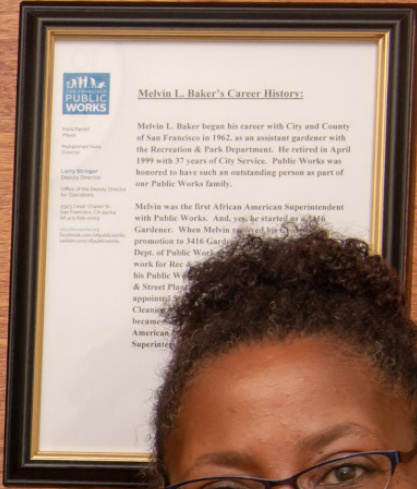
# Public Works P





Mel Baker

Conference Room



# Pioneer Honored

This month we had the pleasure of honoring Mel Baker, the first African American superintendent at Public Works, by naming a conference room after him at our Operations Yard. ▶



**Committed to the greening and beautification of San  
during his tenure at Public Works and prai**



► Baker retired in 1999 after 37 years of service with the City. He started his career as an assistant gardener at the Recreation and Park Department, working at the zoo and the Strybing Arboretum. He joined Public Works in 1981 as a gardener supervisor and worked his way up the ranks, first as assistant superintendent of the Bureau of Street Cleaning/Urban Forestry and then to superintendent of Street and Environmental Services, where he oversaw the entire street cleaning operation.

Committed to the greening and beautification of San Francisco, Baker was lauded by neighborhood groups during his tenure at Public Works and praised by his staff as a firm but fair manager.

When he started his career with Public Works, racial tension percolated at the Operations Yard and few African Americans served in the upper ranks. Today, thanks in large part to Baker's leadership, the Operations Yard is well integrated and welcoming.

Baker died in 2010. His family joined us at the May 21 dedication of the Mel Baker Conference Room. ■

**San Francisco, Baker was lauded by neighborhood groups  
praised by his staff as a firm but fair manager.**



On bustling downtown San Francisco's Market Street, Public Works landscape architect John Dennis noticed a Western Swallowtail Butterfly this month, with his photo becoming a big Twitter hit.

