A passerby checks out the new sister cities sign at Hallidie Plaza. See story inside.
2018 Citywide Summer Meals
From June 7 to Aug. 17 more than 100 sites throughout San Francisco will serve free lunches and snacks to anyone age 18 and under every weekday. No proof of need, registration or identification is required in order to receive a lunch or snack. The only requirement: Arrive at a participating site during the site’s serving time.

Various times and locations. See website for details.

7/4
Golden Gate Park Band performs patriotic-themed music. Free.
1 p.m.
Golden Gate Park Music Concourse

City and County of San Francisco fireworks waterfront display
9:30 p.m.
Best viewing spots include Aquatic Park and Pier 39.

7/5
3rd Thursdays Block Party at Civic Center Commons
Free performances by bands curated by Another Planet Entertainment, a full bar, a rotating selection of street food curated by Off the Grid, and “beach” volleyball by SF Social.

5-9 p.m.
Civic Center

7/15
Sunday Streets in the Mission
Sunday Streets returns to the sunny Mission District for a second round of car-free streets. From Duboce Avenue to 26th Street, Valencia Street transforms into to a community space for all to enjoy.

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Waller and Stanyan streets skate park (east end of Golden Gate Park)
I first want to apologize for taking so long to let you know how helpful Cliff Wong from Public Works’ hydraulic engineering section was last November. It’s been on my mind this entire time to let you know that you have a great employee in Mr. Wong. I am sorry that so many things intervened and prevented me from emailing you sooner, and I hope the passage of time does not diminish in your mind how outstanding he was.

I was amazed at Mr. Wong’s great wealth of knowledge, and I appreciate him taking time from his busy schedule to educate me and make sure I understood what was going on with my sewer line, and he was very patient while doing so. I cannot praise him enough. In my mind, he went above and beyond the call of duty to help me understand how my sewer line works, and the issues and possible solutions. I know that City employees often get a bad rap, which I have found is very much undeserved. Mr. Wong is an example of a truly caring, knowledgeable, and outstanding employee who wants to do what he can to help City residents, and is willing to take the time and effort to make sure he does a good job and that we understand everything. I cannot praise him highly enough. He did an outstanding job helping me out.

Paula K.

I would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for Amanda Higgins of the Bureau of Street-use and Mapping. She is truly a joy to work with. The surface mounted facility permit process is a bear for anyone who has had to work through it. Because of Amanda’s willingness to assist in whatever capacity she can, it makes the process more workable. She is very detailed and if she doesn’t know the answer, she goes out of her way to find it and follows up in a timely manner. She is truly an asset to your organization and to the surface mounted facility permitting process.

Maria T.
AT&T California

Thank you so very much for inviting my fifth graders to participate in the Building Our City: Architecture and Engineering Open House! Please thank all the engineers, architects, assistants and staff who made the field trip possible for my class!

The presentation was very engaging and the hands-on activities where my students built models of a city were awesome! The children were still talking about what they had designed and built, and how much fun it was to learn about the different architects and engineers who help build and take care of our city, as they worked in teams to create their “colony settlement” models in the classroom. Many of the details that they incorporated into their “settlements” were from their experience planning and designing their “city” at the open house. I love incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards and Engineering Practices into my lessons and it was great to listen to and see the connections the children made. Thank you for the snacks, prizes, and hard hats, which my students enjoyed, too.

Thanks again for an outstanding, fun field trip! I hope to have the opportunity to bring another group of fifth graders to your open house next year.

Marina D.

West Portal Elementary School
On Monday, June 11 at 9:40 a.m. at the corner of Hyde and California streets, I observed a very hard working Public Works employee picking up cardboard boxes and bedding and carefully sweeping up the trash off the street. Please thank her for a job well done. I do believe that she is probably the same person I’ve seen in the past trying to keep Hyde Street clean. WHAT A GREAT ROLE MODEL!! She is probably a very lovely lady, too!

Mitzi Q.

I was just driving down Sunset Boulevard in the Sunset and a whole group of young people were pulling weeds and beautifying the planted area that had been taken over. As I drove down this newly cleaned area I noticed a big difference along the street. It’s beautiful today! The Sunset again has a lovely strip dividing the north and south directions. A great program and I commend your effort to keep young people busy, giving them confidence and skills.

Kay C.

This is a letter of thanks and commendation for your department’s assistance in processing our building’s condominium conversion.

In particular, we would like to point out Ernie Banks for his ability to explain a somewhat complex process and make it digestible and feel achievable. His calm, patient, and easy-going demeanor gave us confidence in the efforts of your department. He is a true asset to your department.

Keith W

Just want to tell you the guys you sent last week to get the last-minute range fixes done worked real hard and did a great job. Please give them both a raise. Thanks for getting it done so fast.

Kirk B.
San Francisco Police Department
Public Works engineer Cristina Olea and Jimmer Cassiol of our Community Programs team were honored by District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee at the June 5 Board of Supervisors meeting for helping launch “Ed’s Neighborhood,” an interactive streetscape set designed to teach grade schoolers about traffic safety. Learn more about the program on Public Works TV.

Peter Lau, who runs the street cleaning bureau for Public Works, received a special recognition for his hard work and dedication caring for the City at the San Francisco Travel Association’s 108th-annual luncheon on June 21 at the newly renovated Moscone Center.

The annual Montoya Awards ceremony took place on June 20 to celebrate Laborers’ Local 261 members who perform exemplary work above and beyond the call of duty for Public Works and other City agencies.
Social Media

**SF Pretrial @SFPretrial - Jun 19**
It was a beautiful day at this past Saturday’s communitycleanup with @sfpublicworks. Tzu Chi and Project 20 together keeping this city clean and green! Thanks to everyone who came to volunteer.

**John Entwistle @john_entwistle**
This is history. @sfpublicworks is starting to offer their employees ebikes as an option for those who wish to use bikes instead of trucks to get around San Francisco. This young man is part of the street planting program. Kudos & thanks to @MrCleanSF for visionary leadership!

**Gino Edge @TheCivEd @Jun 13**
Looking great!

**Norman Yee @normandyee**
Proud to honor @sfpublicworks staff Cristina and Jimmer for their leadership and enthusiasm which made my pedestrian safety program possible at our SFUSD schools. I named the program after our late Mayor Lee, who strongly supported my idea. @walkst #VisionZero @VisionZeroSF

**SF Public Works @sfpublicworks**
Installing new decorative crosswalks on Broadway:
sfpublicworks.org/project/broadw...

**Portola Neighborhoods**
A huge thank you to @sfpublicworks and @MarkFarrelSF for helping us add more gardens in the Garden District!
Sisterhood: Global Diplomacy on One Pole

There’s a new attraction in the heart of downtown at Hallidie Plaza: a nifty directional sign highlighting San Francisco’s 19 sister cities.

A worker with our Bureau of Building Repair makes sure the new sister cities sign is ready for its public debut.
Sisterhood: Global Diplomacy on One Pole
San Francisco Protocol
Chief Charlotte Schultz
with Mayor Mark Farrell
nearby speaks at the
dedication ceremony for
the new global attraction.
The sister cities display showcases San Francisco’s embrace of our global partnership and a desire to build bridges, not walls.

Public Works architects mapped out the locations of San Francisco’s 19 sister cities across the globe to make sure the new directional sign was properly aligned.
The towering display has a separate blade for each sister city attached to a single pole and notes their approximate distances from San Francisco.

Mayor Mark Farrell, who came up with the idea, presided over the official dedication on June 28.

Public Works oversaw the project, set the foundation and made sure the direction of the signs closely matched the actual locations of the cities; the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency made and installed the individual signs; and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission provided and set the pole. The Mayor’s Office of Protocol and the San Francisco Host Committee partnered on the installation.

The sister city relationships promote person-to-person diplomacy, with exchanges taking place in sports, the arts, culture, business, science, government best practices, education and more.

San Francisco began its sister city program more than 60 years ago when a partnership with Osaka, Japan was cemented. Since then, 18 other cities joined: Abidjan, Amman, Assisi, Bangalore, Barcelona, Cork, Haifa, Ho Chi Minh City, Kiel, Krakow, Manila, Paris, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, Taipei, Thessaloniki and Zürich. And for the record, the pole is tall enough to accommodate future additions.

The sister cities display showcases San Francisco’s embrace of our global partnerships and a desire to build bridges, not walls.

Several sites were considered, but Hallidie Plaza, which is under Public Works jurisdiction, rose to the top.

The location, at Powell and Market streets, is a true crossroads in San Francisco where visitors come from all over the world to ride a cable car and shop in one of our greatest commercial districts. Or just to people watch.
Our crews scoured everything on Market Street, including the street signs, after the Pride Parade passed by.
Using brooms, rakes, pickers, blowers, steam cleaners, mechanical sweepers, flusher trucks and a tremendous amount of determination, Public Works crews removed 46,360 pounds of trash.
Workers sweep up coffee cups, paper napkins and lots of confetti that parade revelers left behind on Market Street.
Even with the big mess, these street cleaners get into the spirit of Pride.
Public Works crews removed 46,360 pounds of trash left behind by Pride Parade and Celebration revelers.

Our crews will not stop until #SFPRIDE route is sparkling clean. Brooms, shovels, rakes, power washers & determination get the job done!
left behind by Pride Parade and Celebration revelers. Recology, the private refuse company, scooped up an additional 14,530 pounds of debris.

In all, that’s more than 30 tons of litter. Whew! The annual parade runs along Market Street from Beale Street to Civic Center and draws participants and onlookers from around the world.

It took 162 workers to get the streets and sidewalks clean after the June 24 celebrations. They jammed overnight to get Market Street, Civic Center, the Castro and SoMa looking good before most San Franciscans awoke Monday morning.

Their work came on top of two other packed Pride events – the Trans March on June 22 and the Dyke March on June 23. Combined, the weekend is the busiest of the year for our street cleaning crews.

left behind by Pride Parade and Celebration revelers.
Sand Relocation Project: A Moving Experience

Public Works began the annual sand maintenance work along the Great Highway adjacent to Ocean Beach this month. The aim is to reduce the likelihood of sand buildup along the Great Highway during windy weather, forcing periodic closures of the roadway.
Crews will redistribute approximately 8,000 cubic yards of sand during the two-week window.
Crews will redistribute approximately 8,000 cubic yards of sand during the two-week window, which began June 25, moving it from the side of the roadway toward the ocean. We hired Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction, Inc. to perform the work.

In addition to the removal of sand at the seawall that stretches between Noriega and Santiago streets, the project will address the sand accumulation at the Judah Street and Noriega Street intersections.

Public Works has a small window to perform the annual work; it must be timed to make sure crews do not disturb the Western Snowy Plover, a small shorebird that is protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The plovers can be found at Ocean Beach about 10 months out of the year, but take off in the spring or early summer to nest in other coastal areas and inland salt flats. Monitors with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Golden Gate Audubon Society have confirmed that the plovers have left Ocean Beach and that it is safe to begin relocating the sand.
We bolstered our fleet of street cleaning trucks with three new mechanical sweepers specially designed to remove debris from protected bike lanes.
A Sweeping Success
A new narrow bike lane sweeper on the job at Market and Octavia streets.
"As we build more of these separated bike lanes, we needed to make sure that we have an efficient..."
“As we build more of these separated bike lanes to better protect cyclists from cars and trucks, we needed to make sure that we have an efficient and effective way to keep them clean and safe,” Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru said at a June 13 demonstration of the new trucks on Market Street. “This new equipment will get the job done.”

San Francisco now has more than 15 miles of protected bike lanes along more than two dozen corridors, including Market Street, The Embarcadero, Cesar Chavez Street, Folsom Street and John Muir Drive. The SFMTA purchased the new mechanical sweepers and Public Works operates them.

Previously, Public Works crews had to manually sweep the separated bike lanes because the regular mechanical sweeper trucks were too wide to access them. The work was time consuming and the bike lanes were not cleaned as frequently as was needed. Now, the new narrower compact trucks can cover a lot more ground during their seven-day-a-week operation.

"The growing number of protected bike lanes in San Francisco is great news for everyone who shares our streets, but they need to be maintained to ensure they are free of debris,” said Brian Wiedenmeier, executive director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. “It's very encouraging to see the City invest in the proper equipment to keep our bike network riding smoothly.”
Hands-on Training
Hands-on Training for Summer Interns
"There are a lot of opportunities here that aren’t in the private sector – that’s how we ‘out Google’ Google."
"Ask questions ... Don't be shy about asking for additional work ... Allocate time to think about being a great communicator ... Mingle with others ... Make the most of your time here."

These words of wisdom were delivered with such enthusiasm to the standing room-only crowd gathered at Public Works’ intern orientation on June 20, that it was hard to determine who was more excited about the launch of the eight-week summer program – the department’s tenured supervisors or the fresh-faced interns from universities ranging from UC Berkeley and SF State to St. Mary’s, Pratt and Cal Poly.

This year’s 96 college interns, as well as a dozen high school interns placed at Public Works through the City’s Project Pull Summer Internship Program, were clearly anxious to tackle their assignments in hydraulics, construction management, engineering, surveying, IT, accounting, architecture and other disciplines – but not before hearing first-hand stories from department supervisors who began their own careers as summer interns.

Fernando Cisneros, deputy division manager for Design & Engineering, referred to himself as the “oldest intern that’s still working,” noting that he was in Public Works’ second class of interns in the mid-1980s – thanks to a stroke of luck. He’d initially been chosen as an alternate and to this day, he said, he’s grateful to another student who originally was selected but decided to go elsewhere, leaving an opening for him.

Better Market Street project manager Cristina Olea, who attended Santa Clara University and was thrilled to see a few students from her alma mater, admitted, “It was my internship that guided my career. It’s the reason I’m here.”

John Dennis, acting section manager for the Building Design and Construction Landscape Architecture Bureau, proudly proclaimed that he began his Public Works internship 20 years ago – to the day. Improving public spaces was – and still is – a primary goal.

“Based on my great experience as an intern with the department, I always make a point to try and match the passions and interests of our interns with projects and tasks that provide a learning opportunity and that these young landscape architects can be proud of contributing toward that project’s success,” Dennis said.

Not only do the students benefit, but so does Public Works. The interns work on real projects, from conducting land surveys to drawing building designs – all under the close watch of seasoned professionals.

Many managers also hinted that the paid internships with the City offer much more hands-on training than those in the private sector.

“There are a lot of opportunities here that aren’t in the private sector – that’s how we ‘out Google’ Google,” enthused Albert Ko, manager of the construction management bureau for Building Design and Construction.
ON A MISSION!

(AND BERNAL HEIGHTS AND THE PORTOLA)

More than 200 chipper volunteers woke up bright and early to flex their civic pride at this month’s Community Clean Team in District 9’s Mission, Bernal Heights and Portola neighborhoods.
Two of our young volunteers at the Community Clean Team kickoff rally have fun as they get ready to take care of the neighborhood.
Volunteers add new mulch to the landscaping at Esmeralda Slide Park in Bernal Heights.
Volunteers add new plants to the community garden at In Chan Kaajal Park in the Mission District.
The June 16 workday, which kicked off at John O’Connell High School on Folsom Street, was co-hosted by Supervisor Hillary Ronen’s office and demonstrated the love and care that residents and merchants have for the City.

Among the many community organizations and volunteer groups that came out to get their hands dirty were the Portola Neighborhood Association and Larkin Street Youth Services.

The day’s work included landscaping gardens at John O’Connell High School; weeding, mulching and raking dirt at the Esmeralda Slide Park in Bernal Heights; wiping out graffiti and refreshing street furniture on Capp and Shotwell streets and removing litter across the district.

Once the work was complete, everyone rendezvoused at the school grounds to enjoy a communal meal and celebrate their hard work.

You guessed it! Community Clean Team will be back next month for a summertime cleanup on July 28. Be sure to join in on the fun as we clean and green the Western Addition, Alamo Square, Hayes Valley and other District 5 neighborhoods. We’ll meet at the Stanyan/Waller streets skate park at the east end of Golden Gate Park for a kickoff rally at 8:30 a.m.

In the meantime, check out our volunteer page for more information about Community Clean Team and how you can get involved in other initiatives to care for our city.
A Salesforce volunteer removes tags from a traffic sign in the Mission District.
An enthusiastic group of employees from Salesforce partnered with Public Works on a graffiti cleanup in the Mission District.

They removed tags from mailboxes, street signs, utility boxes and street furniture at the June 1 neighborhood beautification workday. Salesforce comes out several times a year to sweep the streets or combat graffiti. The company is just one of many businesses and neighborhood groups that work with us to take care of San Francisco. And of course we can use more help. Check out the opportunities here.

Join the team. Keep SF clean.
A New Patch of Green Blooms in the Garden District
The Portola, a neighborhood known as the Garden District, got a little greener this month.

Neighbors joined Mayor Mark Farrell and Public Works crews on June 6 to plant the Portola Gateway at Mansell Street and San Bruno Avenue with native and drought-tolerant plants to bring vibrancy and beauty to the patch that previously had little more than a large stone “Welcome to Portola” marker and a few trees and shrubs. Now, succulents and colorful flowers spring to life.

More than a dozen Portola residents and business owners donned gloves and grabbed shovels, spades and pick axes to help our landscape workers and the mayor plant the new garden.

Tucked between the Excelsior and the Bayview in the City’s southeast, the Portola was home to native people of the Ohlone tribe and sprouted as a neighborhood of largely Maltese and Jewish immigrants after the 1906 earthquake.

In the 1920s, the Portola supported more 19 family-owned nurseries, which supplied most of the flowers sold in San Francisco. Today, remnants of the greenhouses remain. The new gateway garden keeps the neighborhood tradition alive.
Laurel Village Streetscape Gets a Makeover

Bauman Landscape crews ready olive trees for planting.
Construction crews have been hard at work this month on the Laurel Village Streetscape Improvement Project, which stretches two blocks along California Street between Laurel and Spruce streets.

The project fronts Laurel Village, a street-level shopping center in the Laurel Heights neighborhood with stores, restaurants, cafes and offices.

Crews recently began sidewalk work and planted olive trees. Sewer main improvements already have been completed. And there’s more work to do.

In addition to finishing up the new sidewalks, crews will create a small plaza at Locust and California streets, install boxwood hedges and add landscaping to provide a buffer from California Street traffic. New traffic signals, street lights, benches, trash containers and shrubs also will be installed – all with the aim of improving the visitor experience and enhancing pedestrian safety.

The project, which began in March, will wrap up before Thanksgiving.
A New Look for SF's Public Toilets

The SmithGroupJJR firm's conceptual design rendering of a new public toilet for San Francisco.
Public Works, in partnership with the JCDecaux street furniture company, has chosen the SmithGroupJJR architectural firm as the winner of an invitation-only competition to redesign San Francisco’s on-street public toilets and multi-function kiosks.
The design of the new toilets and multi-function kiosks complements the contemporary and elegant designs of the soon-to-be completed BART portals on Market Street and the café at Civic Center Plaza at Larkin and Grove Streets.
With three strong conceptual design proposals from local firms SmithGroupJJR, Min Design and Branch Creative making the final cut, Public Works solicited community input on this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine and upgrade the public toilets and public service kiosks.

More than 200 individual responses were received through an online survey and in person when the proposed conceptual designs were on display in April at the Main Library in Civic Center and the Heart of the City Farmers Market at UN Plaza. The vast majority of responses prioritized the SmithGroupJJR proposal, describing the look as “clean, safe and inviting,” “iconic and unique,” “sculptural,” “classic” and one that “wraps fluid beauty around function.”

The public input helped inform the final decision of the design competition jury members, who included City staff from Public Works, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Port of San Francisco, and the following outside experts: Yakuh Askew, Y.A. Studio; Laura Crescimano, SiteLab Urban Studio; Joshua Aidlin, Aidlin Darling Design; Jon McNeal, Snøhetta; Maryam Rostami, TEF Design; and Nataly Gattegno, Future Cities Lab.

The design of the new toilets and multi-function kiosks complements the contemporary and elegant designs of the soon-to-be completed BART portals on Market Street and the café kiosk at Civic Center Plaza at Larkin and Grove Streets.

During the next few months, JCDecaux’s engineers will work closely with the project team from SmithGroupJJR to develop and refine the proposed design to meet operational needs and accessibility.

As the toilets and kiosks are intended to be used for the next 20 years, they need to be not only timeless in their design but detailed, fabricated and maintained to withstand a generation of public use.

Once the construction documents are close to completion – most likely mid-summer – the project will be presented at the San Francisco Arts Commission and Historic Preservation Commission hearings for consideration.

Since 1995, San Francisco has benefited from a collaboration with JCDecaux in providing 25 accessible public toilets and 114 kiosks. These compact structures are spread throughout the City, though concentrated along Market Street, downtown and in popular tourist destinations. Like its predecessors now on San Francisco streets, the new model will be self-cleaning, accessible to people with disabilities and connected directly to City sewer, water and electrical lines.

JCDecaux will cover the cost of the construction, installation and daily maintenance. The company also will fund staffing of the toilets at select locations under the City’s successful Pit Stop program. The advertising displayed on the public service kiosks, which in some locations will house such micro-retail establishments as newspaper stands and coffee vendors, also can display public messaging from City agencies about upcoming events, ongoing programs and other topical issues. The kiosks will offset JCDecaux’s costs for the toilets and the operating costs for the program.

After putting the new public toilet contract out to bid, Public Works entered into exclusive contract negotiations with JCDecaux last year. The Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the proposed agreement in September. The current contract expires in October 2018.
SHOWCASING SAFE STREETS

San Francisco Public Works truck drivers are on hand at Sunday Streets to offer pedestrians and bicyclists tips on how to stay safe around trucks. This month we were at the Great Highway/Golden Gate Park event on June 3. As a bonus, kids get to check out the cab of one of our rigs and play driver. And yes, the engine is off!