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From the Editor and Publisher: Make a difference on Earth Day

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Who would have guessed it?

More than 200 pounds of trash, weed clippings and debris.

That's the amount Team Tribune collected at the SamTrans Park and Ride lot on Linda Mar Boulevard as part of the Earth Day clean up April 20.

Driving past this relatively small patch of public parking lot you wouldn't even imagine that volume of litter. But take a closer look and debris lines the concrete circles of trees and row of bushes that line the rear fence. Not to mention scores of cigarette butts dotting the parking lot landscape and around the bus stop.

In recent years, volunteer attendance in Pacifica on Earth Day has grown exponentially, largely due to the driving force of the Pacifica Beach Coalition's Lynn Adams. Through her whirlwind efforts, the day of clean up has become a citywide effort, with scores of volunteers pitching in to clean up beaches, streets, parks, parking lots, the creek and dozens of other spots throughout Pacifica.

Afterward, volunteers are treated to a thank-you festival, with live music, environmental booths, food and fun. This year's "Take a Bite out of Litter" focused on the plight of the shark, one of many species harmed by litter flowing unchecked into the sea. This year, the Pacifica Tribune staff and some of their spouses and kids, formed a small team, assigned to the Park and Ride lot at the corner of Highway 1.

In just two short hours we filled about a dozen large trash bags with litter, greenwaste and recyclables. The amount we collected was unexpected -- and eye-opening. I might never walk past litter or a cigarette butt again without stopping to pick it up.

The Tribune partnered with the Pacifica Beach Coalition to publish a series of tributes to all the volunteers who played a part -- individuals, organizations and businesses.

Kudos to you all.

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