

News

Local dog walker leads neighbors to the streets to the streets



submitted photo Marcella Guzman-Cierra and her morning team of pups.

By **JEAN BARTLETT**

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People in the north end of Pacifica know Marcella Guzman-Cierra. A Pacifica resident for 13 years, Guzman-Cierra is either out walking her dog Molly with extra bags to pick up trash along her journey, or walking all the little dogs she watches over in her Marcella & Pups by the Beach business, again with extra bags for cleanup. A 13-year resident of Pacifica, Guzman-Cierra said she has made it her business to pick up litter.

“When I go to the beach with my dog, I fill a garbage bag with the litter I’ve picked up,” the Pacifican said. “Each weekend at the beach there is always a lot of extra dog poop and bottles, and you see many locals out there cleaning up the mess.”

Guzman-Cierra has participated in the Pacifica Beach Coalition’s (PBC) Earth Day event for the past five years. She has served as site captain for Waterford Street, a street that can be overwhelmed with trash blowing from both the self-serve car wash on the street as well as from drivers littering as they head onto or along the freeway.

“Lynn Adams (PBC’s president) lives close to where I live and we see each other in Edgemar Park with our dogs,” Guzman-Cierra laughed. “She used to hound me to be part of Earth Day. Actually I am quite glad to be a part of it. It makes you feel good because you are helping your neighborhood and your neighbors and after a while, you begin to get your neighborhood going.”

The first year Guzman-Cierra participated in Earth Day, she took on the chore of Waterford Street all by herself. The second year, two neighbors joined in. At this year’s April 18 event, eight neighbors tackled Waterford Street. When they finished earlier than expected, the group headed to Short Street, off of Clifton Road and leading into Edgemar Park, and there they did litter pickup and weeding. On Waterford Street, the PBC Earth Day Team’s removals included a massive amount of plastic wrappers, a 60 pound sack of concrete and a dead mole.

Guzman-Cierra, who also volunteers in the tap dance classes at Daly City’s Doelger Senior Center, said that weeding in your neighborhood and cleaning up litter locally is very rewarding and it’s a job for everyone.

“It’s instant gratification,” she noted. “You can immediately see the change. You also get off the couch and out of the house to do something for your neighbors that leaves you feeling great. And if you don’t know your neighbors, it’s a nice way to meet them.”

“Our neighborhood has gotten really excited about doing projects where we live,” Guzman-Cierra went on to say. “We’ve also tried tackling Edgemar Park with both weeding and planting and some of what we have done has really taken. We’re lucky to have Lynn Adams, a great leader who is tireless and exuberant, and the Pacifica Beach Coalition to inspire us to improve the world we live in.”

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