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# Picking Up Trash Becomes a Family Affair

*The Ricksons have answered the call to make Pacifica cleaner, prettier.*

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(<http://contribute.patch.com/moderation/1657949>)



Environmental leaders have cleaning up before Rand McNally visitors arrive on July 11. Some in the community are answering the call.

The visitors are part of the USA Today/Rand McNally "Best of the Road" (<http://www.bestoftheroad.com/>) contest, in which Pacifica was town in America. If they don't like what they see, however, another city could be featured in Rand McNally's annual well-publicized road trip.

The Rickson family removed three bags of trash, one bag of recyclables, car parts, Styrofoam and two Jack Daniel's Whiskey bottles from Fassler Avenue this weekend. Not bad, but at past cleanups, they have found as many as 11 to 14 whiskey bottles.

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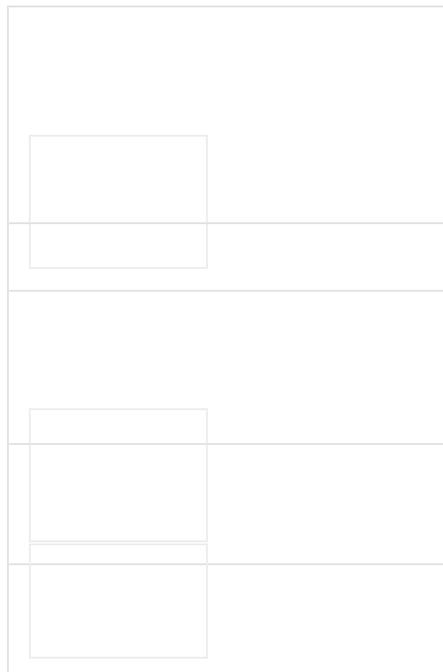
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Nancy Rickson and her family have been cleaning up that road for about two years, five to six times a year. That includes Earth Day in April, Coastal Cleanup Day in September and several other times throughout the year.

Why Fassler? Nancy drives up and down the road often to take her children to and from . Before that, the family, which has been living in Pacifica for about eight years, cleaned up Palmetto Avenue. Her husband bikes there.

Nancy said that both Fassler and Palmetto are cleaner than they used to be, but Pacifica in general hasn't improved a whole lot since they moved here.

"Especially during the summer, with the summer traffic," she said. "People park on Roberts Road to look at the waves and check out the beach scene and the majority of the trash we pick up is fast food trash and cigarettes. There are a lot of bad streets."

She credits with much of the improvement to Palmetto's cleanliness and Recology of the Coast with much of the improvements to Pacifica, generally.

The Rickson family has inspired families to adopt streets around the school and clean them up for Earth Day, said Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition.

Nancy hopes to emphasize the importance of this work to her children as well as make Pacifica prettier.

"I think that community service is important for kids, for them to understand," she said. "We talk about how much we like living here and we want to keep it clean, instill those values in our kids. They seem to really like it. They're not always super-enthused, but once we get out there, they're fine. People, when they see kids picking up trash, yell 'thank you' and smile and wave."

Looking for ways you can help pick up Pacifica?

Check out the Beach Coalition's website (<http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org/>) for weekly cleanup events.

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(/california/petaluma/over-river-and-through-woods-yosemite-thanksgiving-or-christmas-0) Yosemite/Mariposa County has a slate of memorable and joyous holiday activities happening for all to enjoy!

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(/connecticut/newtown/al-report-probes-dark-interior-life-sandy-hook-shooter-0) The report sheds light on the shooter's infatuation with mass murder and how attempts to get him help failed.

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(/new-jersey/middletown-nj/watch-disneys-frozen-ice-show-reunites-afghanistan-vet-middletown-family) Jamie Curcio, who just returned from Afghanistan, surprised his two children Friday when he jumped out of Newark.

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(/illinois/burridge/illinois-stable-fire-claims-lives-32-horses) Losses at Valley View Acres estimated at more than \$2 million.

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(/new-jersey/oceancity/2014s-10-worst-toys-list-out) World Against Toys Causing Harm reveals its nominees for toys that should not be in the hands of children this holiday season.