

## A Huge 'Thank You' for Volunteers

# Hundreds Clean Up Marsh Creek

Brentwood Parks and Recreation officials are heaping a huge “thank you” on the hundreds of volunteers who pulled out more than four tons of trash from Marsh Creek and its banks on Coastal Cleanup Day last September.

“We say ‘thanks tons’ to all the awesome young people and adults who came out to help make Brentwood Creeks and trails even more enjoyable,” says Linda Stadlbauer, City Park Planning Technician. “Those community-minded people, who walked the Marsh Creek trail with litter bags to remove unsightly trash, removed over four tons of trash. That’s a huge improvement.”

The Parks Department also extended its thanks to all the community sponsors: Home Depot, Safeway, Target, Brentwood Arts Commission, FedEx Kinkos, Delta Pure Water, 110 Degrees, Starbucks, 1-800GotJunk, Brentwood Press, Pacific Coast Seeds and the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce.

Other groups participating included

the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, local schools, the Dainty Center and the Friends of Marsh Creek.

“Keeping the creek clean is all our responsibility,” Stadlbauer says. “Not only is the debris unsightly, it also poses a hazard to residents and wildlife. Large items or collections of debris can block the creek causing it to flood.

“We had 500 volunteers this year, up 200 from last year. And they were all volunteers. As were all the City of Brentwood personnel who showed up out of concern for the future of our City and our environment,” she adds.

While the four tons pulled from the creek seem large — and Stadlbauer says it is far too much — the amount is still about a ton less than was collected last year and possibly a sign that less debris is being dumped along the creek.

“The creek was squeaky clean when we finished,” she says. “Our goal would be to have the number of tons go down every year.”

## City Opens Signups for Annual Fun Run

Register by April 13 for the City of Brentwood’s 10th Annual Fun Run and Health Expo and get a free t-shirt and save \$5 off the registration fee, organizers urge.

This year’s event, scheduled for April 28 at Brentwood City Park, will feature a 5K run-walk, a bike ride and a one-mile run-walk. Participation is open to all ages.

Proceeds from the event will benefit a variety of local youth and adult services and groups.

A special School Challenge is being issued to students from any Brentwood school. The school with the most students participating will receive a prize. Students should identify on the registration forms the school they represent.

Adults registering for the Fun Run by April 13 will pay \$25, children 12

and under \$15. After April 13, the fee is increased by \$5 for adults. An additional \$10 fee will be charged for each person registering for both the 5K and one-mile events.

Residents can register online at [www.onyourmarkevents.com](http://www.onyourmarkevents.com) before April 13 for the Fun Run or by postal mail or in person at the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Office, 730 Third St., Brentwood, CA, 94513.

Bicyclists may register online at [www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/emotion](http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/emotion). Helmets are required for all riders, and ribbons will be given to all participants.

Registration starts at 7:15 a.m. on race day with the 5K event slated for 8:30 a.m. The bike ride commences at 9 a.m., followed by the one-mile run-walk

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## Safety Tips for Wet, Dark Days of Winter

With winter comes early darkness, fog and wet streets, all of which create a high safety risk, police report.

But you don’t have to be a victim of a crime, says Officer George Aguirre of the Brentwood Police Department’s Traffic Safety Division. There are simple, common-sense steps residents can take that will enhance their safety.

“We recommend people have their keys in their hands as they approach their cars in the dark whether coming from the office, home or shopping,” Aguirre says. Having keys ready lets residents enter their cars quickly, discouraging potential muggers.

Park in well-lit areas as close to your destination as you can, again shortening your travel time and lessening your exposure to potential muggers. If possible, ask someone to escort you to your car at night.

California law now requires all drivers to turn on their headlights whenever they use their windshield wipers.

“Day running lights won’t do because drivers in the rear have to be able to see your tail lights,” Aguirre says.

Avoid using your high beams when driving in fog. They only increase the glare and don’t add to your visibility, he adds.

A law passed in summer 2006, requires drivers, starting July 1, 2008, to use a hands-free device for cellular phones when they intend to use the phones while driving. There are some exemptions, but Aguirre advises drivers to either pull over in a safe location to use their mobile phones or use the hands-free device.

Even with the hands-free device, drivers who become distracted or disoriented are at risk for citations and accidents, Aguirre says.

“Use good judgment. Be alert to your surroundings as well as road and weather conditions. If it is raining too hard to see well, pull over to a safe spot and wait for it to pass,” he adds.