

## Citizen of the Year Nominee: Butch Hobson

Nominator: Laura Hobson



In March 2020, immediately following the first Shelter-in-Place Order, my husband Butch and I, like many others, found ourselves at home for two weeks without a job to occupy our time. It didn't take long for Butch to go stir crazy, as everyone who knows him also knows that he cannot just sit and relax. On April 1, we went out for a walk around the neighborhood together, and Butch noticed just how much trash there was scattered around our town. He got home and immediately ordered a trash grabbing tool. When it arrived in the mail, he was so excited, it felt like Christmas at our house! On April 4, he officially headed out with gloves, empty trash bags, and his new grabber tool. In no time, he filled up two large trash bags, and still could not believe how much trash there was still to be picked up! Within two weeks, he had picked up 20 bags of trash, each averaging about four pounds each. So, in his short time on his new "job," Dublin was 80 pounds lighter in garbage!

This continued, even after Butch went back to work full time in May. It became a fun game for him to see how much trash he could fit in one bag! As he was out, people would often stop their cars to say, "thank you," and give him a thumb's up. Many people told Butch that the world would be a much better place if more people were like him.

Butch stopped counting his trash-collecting success after he used 100 bags. To this day, if there is a bit of sunlight and the Dublin winds are light, he goes out on his walks with a trash bag and his grabber! A couple of friends were so impressed by his trash-collecting success, that they, too, bought grabbers and now pick up trash on their regular walks. At one point, Dublin was so clean that Butch even headed over to Pleasanton a few times to help out over there.

Butch has picked up an endless supply of masks, gloves, and sanitizing wipes, but also utensils, a full backpack, a calendar, and more dog poop bags than he'd care to mention. One day, he even surprised a snake underneath a plastic bag! Butch also learned that Marlboro must be the number one brand of cigarettes given the number of empty boxes and cigarette butts that he's collected. He happily picks up those butts so that they don't make their way into the storm drains and pollute our waterways and harm our wildlife.

We now have a section in our garage to store trash bags, and his grabber sits right next to the gate in our backyard, ready for him when he heads out on his walks!

Butch is not the kind of person who looks for accolades or recognition, but I believe his efforts in cleaning up the city that he loves certainly qualifies him for a Citizen of the Year!