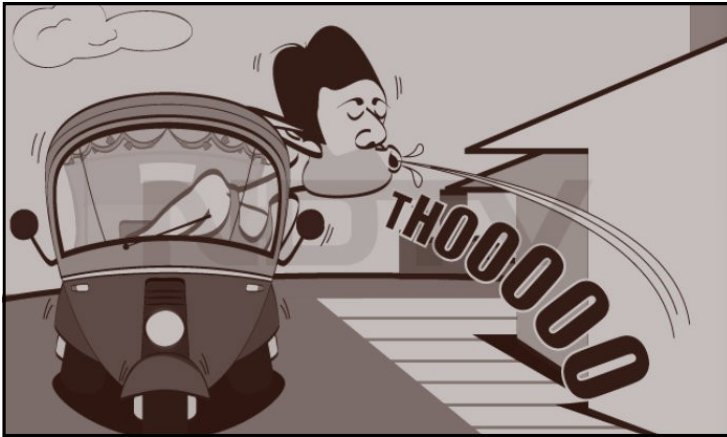


THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

March 26, 2017



On-the-spot fines for spitting in effect

In Uttarakhand, India on Friday teams began scouring the city for people spitting in public. It's part of a [new regimen](#) of on-the-spot fines touted by chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat - up to Rs 5000 and, in serious cases, up to six months in jail. The state passed an Anti-Littering law in November and has authorized municipalities to enforce it.

[Call to ban balloon releases spurred by new data on harm](#)

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) wants a ban on balloon releases in the UK after its study concluded that balloon-related litter on beaches is up by 53 percent in 2016 over 2015. Concern for wildlife welfare is the prime driver behind the call and [petition](#) for an outright ban. Entanglement, strangulation, choking and suffocation of animals are noted hazards. So far 50 local councils have voluntarily disallowed the letting go of balloons and sky lanterns. Four-fifths of all marine-based litter begins its voyage to the sea on land. In the US, places like Florida and California already have bans on releasing balloons. It takes one latex balloon four years to break down. According to MCS, 13 out of every 100 balloons sent skyward burst and descend in fragments and 80 percent of them come down intact. A three-year-old horse that choked on a balloon string and died spawned a petition supporting one such local ban.

DID YOU KNOW?

A McDonald's in Illawarra has taken part in Keep Australia Beautiful Day since 1989. Licensee of three restaurants, Katia Dwarde, believes litter is everyone's responsibility. Her stores carried anti-littering messages on their packaging, provided bins and signage for the event held March 4-5. [Refreshing to see](#) from a fast food outlet.

WA Clean Schools program a winner

Western Australia is a hotbed for progressive activities in the fight against litter. Keep Australia Beautiful Council - WA is in the throes of running a contest for students through the Clean Schools program. Back by popular demand, Design a Bin Sticker challenges students to come up with the best all-around message, illustration and slogan. A [website](#) gives them all the guidelines, pointers and a template. The contest deadline is March 31.

[Ontario university apologizes for students](#)

St. Patrick's Day was a messy aftermath of littered cups, bottles and sundry litter around Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario after students partied like fools with little thought. Their daytime street party drew complaints of noise, littering and drunkenness. Recognizing conduct meriting a failing grade, Brock officials scurried to apologize and denounced their students' behaviour. Days prior to the occasion, staff had canvassed residences reminding students to be courteous, handing out garbage bags and tags and responsible drinking guides.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 19 - 26)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

March 19 - April 15 is litter awareness month (3/23)

Oberon in NSW, AU devotes four weeks to litter awareness this time of year, for concentrated enforcement on roadside littering and encouraging public reports to the EPA, all to back up the state's Hey, Tosser! campaign.

Plastic litter a most dreaded foe, center says (3/19)

Evidence continues to mount that plastic is by far the most life-threatening litter in oceans. Science Daily reports on a [study](#) by the Joint Research Centre at the European Commission ranking plastic items as having "the highest direct and indirect damaging impact."

Marshal wants a crackdown in Augusta (3/21)

Boundary and rule changes drawn up by Marshal Omar Rouse mean Augusta, Georgia will have quadruple the officers to talk to, or ticket, people who dump and litter. "It's kind of like plugging a bag of water. You plug one spot, the other side bursts," Sgt. Rouse told WRDW-TV.

Take Bolton to court, campaigner suggests (3/22)

An activist in Bolton, UK has urged folks there to consider hauling the town into court if litter cleanup standards are not met. After picking up 102 bags of litter himself, Warren Fox wrote and scolded the town's chief executive, saying he would seek a litter abatement order forcing council to get rid of the litter.