

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

February 17, 2019

"Killer litter" incident hits Toronto

Dental hygiene student Marcella Zoia, 19, faces three charges including endangering human life following a chair-throwing incident from the balcony of a Toronto high-rise condominium unit. The incident was captured on video and posted February 9 by someone who was there, leading to a police investigation and media/public firestorm. Zoia turned herself in on Wednesday. In Singapore the term "killer litter" is used to define the crime of items dropping from the heights. The skyscraper.com dictionary says it's "litter that is thrown out, or falls off, tall buildings". Causes "range from careless placed flowers pots, to silverware or even metal chairs that get thrown out of the window out of boredom or during a quarrel," the explanation says. Singapore produced a [fact sheet](#) about killer litter, which had resulted in [a death](#) and injuries there. Surprisingly, Toronto has not weighed in on the "chair girl" crime with separate dumping charges under the city's municipal code. Zoia will be in court answering to police charges of mischief endangering life, mischief damage property under \$5,000 and common nuisance.



A smoking, big problem. We found this sculpture while perusing the web, a giant sculpture in a transit terminal telling smokers that their tobacco remnants are litter -- noticeable, ugly, unwanted -- and should be contained.

App-solutely fabulous!

BeachPatrol Australia has some software to go with your beachwear. Litter Stopper, a new phone app is designed to help litter pickers categorize and count items removed during coastal clean-ups. The litter auditing tool lets you tap one of 24 icons for types of litter found to easily tabulate the haul with your phone. Available free at app stores.



Global contest seeks pollution solution

June 11 is the deadline for entries in a National Geographic /Sky Ocean Ventures competition that will award 1.5 million US dollars (£1.16 million) for the best design ideas for single use plastic alternatives that will tackle the pollution problem.

DID YOU KNOW?

The popular La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge March 8 - 11, 2019, a 175-mile [canoe race](#) that is ranked as the world's 40th most challenging on 'Peak Races', began as a Save our Rivers effort in 1995 to draw attention to the harm caused by improper garbage disposal and littering.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 10 - 17)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Intentional balloon releases banned (2/11)

To protect wildlife from harm and cut down on litter costs, the town of East Hampton, NY has passed a law prohibiting the release of balloons in the air.

Valentine's Day theme of share the love (2/13)

Dalton, GA used Valentine's Day to urge residents to "Love it, Don't Trash it" in the solid waste authority's biweekly column this week in the Daily Citizen. The article offered tips for showing love for a community.

Wet wipes are now a top polluter: EU (2/14)

According to the European Union, wet wipes are one of the most commonly identified items on the beach. Improper disposal of the plastic wipes has become a major issue. Wipes are being flushed down toilets instead of being correctly placed in the trash.

Miami Beach backs its straw measures (2/14)

The days of sipping drinks through straws may be numbered in Miami Beach where controls on littering and the use of plastic straws are in place and the city is objecting to a state bill that would override its ban on straws and stirrers in public places.

Donegal to go fish for litter (2/15)

Donegal County Council will run a Fishing for Litter effort with anglers to bring ocean trash ashore.