

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

August 25, 2019

Tossed dirty nappy, trooper unhappy

It was an expensive way to change a baby, a Georgia driver discovered when a soiled diaper that a passenger tossed out of the vehicle's back window hit the front of an Indiana state police car. "Littering is always bad," tweeted Indiana State Police Sergeant Stephen Wheelles, "Littering by throwing a used diaper out of the car window right in front of a police officer is asking for a ticket ... especially when diaper hits said police officer's car". A stern, raised-eyebrow emoji face punctuated the officer's tweet.

Strange plastic rocks and pebbles sighted

Material resembling pebbles and rocks has been identified as "pyroplastic" by researchers at the University of Plymouth. The 185 stone-like items - some ragged, some smooth - were collected during beach cleanups at Whitsand Bay in Cornwall. A further 30 samples were found in the Orkneys in Scotland, County Kerry in Ireland, and northwestern Spain. Tests revealed they are a marine pollutant derived from melted plastic carrier bags, flower pots, takeaway containers and other sources of soft and hard plastic.

Man fatally struck by killer litter

Family members of a man who died in a Singapore hospital on August 19 say he was a victim of "killer litter". The 74-year-old grandfather succumbed to his head injury the day after allegedly being hit by a bottle tossed from the balcony of a 35-storey condo. He was sitting with relatives preparing to eat at a barbecue pit in an adjacent park when struck. An investigation is ongoing. The incident sparked several letters to the editor from people calling for stronger measures. [One letter](#) suggested an awareness campaign would help.

Singer's littering strikes a sour note

Some of celebrity Filipino singer Kiana Valenciano's fans are accusing her of following a double standard. A public advocate for cleanups, she was seen in a recent Instagram video tossing balut (egg) shells onto the street, leaving netizens noting that this too is littering.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Environment Agency in Singapore took action against more than 1,200 cases of high-rise littering and had more than 1,000 cameras trained on high-rise litter hot spots last year.



Cleethorpes, UK is behind an initiative to keep its beaches clean using stickers and signs bearing a simple instruction. Tested last summer, the message pushed littering down by 26 per cent.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 18 - SEP 25)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Cleaner Havering campaign reports success [\(8/20\)](#)

Officials in Havering report seeing a 22 per cent drop in the level of littering in the first three months of 2019 - 318 reports compared to 419 reports during the same period in 2018. Strict enforcement action and regular community cleanups are credited.

Television adverts in the works [\(8/22\)](#)

TV Worldwide's Maritime TV Channel is partnering with the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) to produce 30- and 60-second anti-tobacco litter PSA video spots, "Keep Your Butts OFF the Beach!" and "Keep Your Butts IN your Car!"

Hounslow market shutdown [\(8/22\)](#)

The council in Hounslow, UK has decided to close down a privately run town centre market at the end of September due to littering and anti-social behaviour.

Surrey feels safer without litter around [\(8/24\)](#)

Downtown Surrey, BC feels slightly safer this year than last, according to a survey by the business association. Littering, discarded needles and loitering are concerns.

Karachi's initiative has numerous elements [\(8/19\)](#)

Karachi's "Say no to open littering" drive to change littering mindsets includes ads, 13,000 new dustbins, talking to retailers and a plastic bag ban starting Oct. 1.