

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Smokers served by Sidewalk Buttlers

Fredericksburg, Virginia has buttlers catering exclusively to smokers downtown. To entice puffers into disposing of their cigarette butts correctly, the city purchased 30 new, sleek and easy-to-use 'Sidewalk Buttler' ash receptacles to replace the high-maintenance "butt buckets" that had been part of the city's [Butts Are Litter Too](#) campaign. Thirty similar receptacles were installed in city parks, a gift from Keep Virginia Beautiful in 2019. All of the butts collected are recycled.

Uganda toughens its stand on littering

A new law that criminalizes littering is now in effect across Uganda. As of January 10 every person is "under obligation to refrain from littering or dropping rubbish outside the litter bins. On conviction, the offender will be subjected to a fine of up to Ugx 2 Million (\$540) or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or both," the law states. It addresses various offences from untidy properties to littering from vehicles and roadside dumping of loads of sugar cane leaves and pineapple peelings. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has handed the job of implementation to local governments, who risk funding cutbacks if they fail to meet the directive. But critics say the plan's architects should help first by publicizing the new law.

Events like these are kind of, well, neat

In Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana "[Company Is Coming](#)" is a quarterly cleanup event that invites the hospitality sector to be more immersed in combating litter. Hotels, casinos, restaurants and attractions are urged to form teams and tidy up around and near their premises. Top prize in the friendly contest is a pizza party for the winning team. The first go-around took place February 3 - 7, and will be followed by outings in May, September and November.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 2 - 9)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

UK city tries a blitz and sting approach [\(2/5\)](#)

Leicester city council and police are together on a blitz and sting operation targeting inconsiderate motorists around schools. On top of educational visits to 100 schools over the next five months, police will be issuing tickets for littering, idling of vehicles and illegal parking.

Bird squad hard at work teaching in UAE [\(2/5\)](#)

Parrots and crows trained in Spain to pick up litter are fronting *Nature Educates Us*, a programme from Barari Natural Resources, manager of more than 400 forests and nature reserves in Abu Dhabi, capital of UAE.

Litter Quitter being served up to restaurants [\(2/5\)](#)

Sebastian, Florida has a Litter Quitter drive to help riverfront eateries eliminate their single use plastics like straws and bags. Establishments can choose to shoot for bronze, silver or gold status depending on how far they pledge to go, from instituting no-straw/ask-first policies to eliminating non-reusable items completely.

Litter grates installed as flood protection [\(2/3\)](#)

Decatur, Alabama is putting \$50,000 more into the purchase of ten specialized grates to keep litter from blocking drains and causing floods in high-risk areas. These will be an enhanced version of the 15 grates acquired in 2019 that were used with mixed success.

Pennsylvania by the numbers

Pennsylvania transportation and environmental agencies released the first statewide litter study on Wednesday, at the same time announcing a shift in focus from clean ups to prevention. A strategy group is being formed to develop the best new approaches. The study by Burns and McDonnell consultants of Georgia reported 502 million pieces of litter on PA's roads altogether and 1,030 items per mile of local road. Another related [study](#) lays out the high cost of cleanups, deemed "not sustainable" by PennDOT officials.

Court takes hard line on fines

The local paper calls them "the dirty half dozen", six persons convicted in absentia for littering in Plymouth, UK. By not paying initial fixed penalty amounts and failing to appear in court, each was fined £876 and a handed criminal record.

DID YOU KNOW?

Don't Mess With Texas®, America's granddaddy of anti-litter organizations, just [opened up](#) its youth post-secondary scholarships and annual Texas K-12 school [calendar art](#) contest for nominations. Keep Texas Beautiful is a partner.