

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

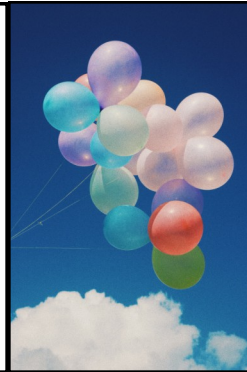


@LitterNoMore

October 4, 2020

McDonald's Sweden lets go of balloons

In a laudable move, McDonald's of Sweden has nixed its use of balloons. Instead of balloons at children's parties the company will offer a digital balloon game. This week's announcement represents a victory for environmental groups like [Balloon Blow](#), which have consistently warned that balloons let loose in the environment present a real risk to the health and wellbeing of wildlife. Ending balloons is part of McDonald's commitment to reducing its reliance on single-use plastics, said the company's press release.



A smoking roundtable

The British government released the Minutes of its September 2 meeting with tobacco companies and anti-litter agencies. It was the public's first glimpse at a progress report on the UK's stepped-up effort to ensure that manufacturers of tobacco products take responsibility for the litter created from their cigarette butts, cigar tips and packaging.

New study tracked soaring litter levels

Ireland's latest study documents year-over-year increase in littering and identifies who is causing it. National Litter Pollution Monitoring System found pedestrians are the biggest offending littering group followed by motorists, the two accounting for two-thirds of all litter. Analysis of the detritus found cigarettes butts (50.9%), tobacco related (3%), packaging (14.9%), food related (12.3%), gum (10.6%) and sweet related (9.4%) items



Above, trucker litter: The scene after a visit to the coffee truck.

City targets mask mess

Houston, Texas unmasked its targeted, graphic campaign against PPE littering, tackling the throw-down culture by honing in on disposable face masks, which have seen an epidemic-style rise in usage and improper disposal worldwide.

Ontario waters to welcome bins

Twenty-three marinas in Ontario Great Lakes' waters will be part of world's the single largest installation of litter traps and Australian-made Seabins, the Council of the Great Lakes Region has announced. They should all be in place by the end of October. The University of Toronto's Trash Team will be keeping tabs on data collected.

Nothing to cause a stir over

As of October 1, plastic straws, stirrers and ear swabs are banned in England, part of a slow, step-by-step plastic reduction plan.

DID YOU KNOW?

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), [Clean Seas](#) and Open Universiteit have a free course you can [join](#) to become a trained student or leader in the [Global Partnership on Marine Litter](#). The [Massive Open Online Course of Marine](#) (MOOC) begins on October 26 in ten different languages.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (SEP 27- OCT 4)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Cycling road race penalties pledged for 2021 [\(9/28\)](#)

Next year the boom's going to fall on international cycling circuit racers who litter the course, UCI, the governing body is promising. While cash fines haven't worked so well, in 2021 there will be time penalties too.

Scientists serve up 'PETase' enzyme cocktail [\(9/28\)](#)

Scientists have discovered an enzyme blend that eats PET plastic six times faster than its predecessor and looks hopeful for future commercial use someday.

Mid-Autumn Festival warning sounded [\(9/28\)](#)

Hong Kong patrols tried to curtail sky lantern releases and public wax burning at the Mid-Autumn Festival, telling revellers to abandon these practices, keep areas clean and abide by pandemic safety protocols.

Jogger challenges 'COVID officer's' ticket [\(9/30\)](#)

A jogger, who says he was blowing sweat off his face after a hot jog, is fighting a fixed penalty notice that he was handed in London Borough of Hounslow by an enforcement officer who ticketed him for spitting.

Ontario, Canada parks usage and littering up [\(10/1\)](#)

Ontario parks registered a 29 percent bump-up in back country campers in 2020 as COVID-19 spawned a stay-at-home vacation surge. With that rise came a noticeable increase in littering behaviors, officials said.