

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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200th issue our last (for a while)



Dubai pulls out all stops to control revellers

The bigger the show, the greater the litter pile. That's what Dubai municipality knows all too well after comparing debris left over from its annual New Year's Eve fireworks show downtown at Burj Khalifa. Cleaners removed 23 tonnes in 2015, and ten times that amount after a large and historic pyrotechnic spectacle in 2014. This year crews were ready. A well-equipped team of 746 of the best trained and hardest working public and private cleaners was assigned the task of having downtown Dubai spotless again by morning. Another 1,640 workers were on standby in case of emergency.

Litter never takes a break, but after 200 weekly editions, *Litterland* is taking one. Our first issue (above) debuted on February 10, 2013. Thank you for reading. Hoping to return soon, ~ Sheila White, Publisher

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Wolverhampton, UK, pays nothing to have its littering laws enforced. A private company does the job for a portion of the fine revenue, currently a £75 fixed penalty.

Michigan bans bag bans

On Wednesday Michigan banned plastic bag fees and local bans on such carrier bags, ever the insidious foe of litter prevention. The new state law forbids the passing of local ordinances that force retailers to charge for plastic bags or that place outright bans on their use. When it comes into effect in 90 days it will rob towns and cities of levers they need to address the proliferation of plastic bags in the waste stream. Bag fees push consumers to think about switching to reusable bags. Banning bags forces retailers to find alternatives too, which can add to their cost of doing business. Most irksome to opponents of the Republican-backed bill is the sheer environmental folly of failing to control plastic bag use. Plastic is a lead offender on the unwanted litter list, especially since 80 per cent of it will end up in the water. Other states with Michigan-style laws include Wisconsin, Florida, Idaho, Missouri and Arizona. Rochester Institute of Technology estimates 21.8 million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes every year.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Philadelphia [Litter Cabinet](#) *Litterland* told you about last week has six months to deliver a plan for achieving Mayor Jim Kenney's objectives: A Zero Waste plan, forward looking through to 2035; a Litter Index; a strategy to manage litter, illegal dumping; improve education, engage communities, partner with private businesses and community organizations.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (DEC 25 - JAN 1)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Resolve to pick up and not throw down (12/26)

An idea from Rob McLean in the Shepparton News for those shopping for a New Year's resolution. In an article he suggests they resolve to give up littering.

Teen starts campaign to tackle litter menace (12/26)

Who couldn't benefit from a little youthful energy? Ahmed Khan, 17, student founder of Clean Up Bahrain to stop littering, already has four companies backing his campaign. He says Bahrain is the smallest country in the world with the biggest pollution problem.

Stoke-on-Trent's record breaker (12/27)

We doubt Guinness keeps a record on this or that municipalities would want to vie for the title, but Stoke-on-Trent has set a new high for littering fines dispensed: £31,900 in fixed-penalty (FPN) fines since April plus 42 FPNs for wholesale dumping and 175 cases headed to prosecution. Also the get-tough council seized five vehicles that were used in fly-tipping incidents.

Indian forest and tiger sanctuary at risk (12/29)

Bandapura and Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is being threatened by flyaway garbage in the forests. Warning boards proving ineffective, authorities now check all vehicles for plastic items and liquor bottles. If found, those are dumped in a bin at the entranceway. Jeep patrols on the lookout for miscreants are a constant.

Town's push from 2015 showing results (12/29)

Wolverhampton asked 10,789 people, mostly smokers, for £800,000 in fines for littering in the past 17 months.