

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

February 25, 2018



Invention touted as remedy for gum litter

Chewing gum will be sold in packs like those shown above later this year, UK start-up Gumipod told Oliver Nieberg of Confectionery News. Gumipod dispenses chewing gum and has a compartment for holding ABC gum (Already Been Chewed) so that it can be easily stored and not dropped on pavement. Wrongly discarded chewing gum, a form of plastic, is a prevalent and costly littering problem.

Straw Wars declared

Whitehall Middle School in Whitehall, Michigan marked National Skip The Straw Day on February 28. Students there, *The Coral Keepers*, founded the awareness day in 2017 to curb the use and littering of plastic straws on the fourth Friday in February every year. They point to the National Parks Service estimate that Americans go through 500 million straws a day and urge their community to refuse plastic and use alternatives like paper, bamboo and stainless steel straws or no straw at all.

Oh, Canada, what a mess

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup statistics point to a big issue with small litter. Small plastics, like caps and lids, represent the single largest slice of the litter pie, ahead of cigarette butts, according to nationwide counts from 2017. That holds true everywhere except Toronto where butts are the most prominently littered items on the shores of Lake Ontario, tallies show.

DID YOU KNOW?

NBC Bay Area investigated 153 blocks stretching 20 miles through downtown San Francisco and found litter on every block, drug needles in 41 of them and piles of feces in 96, trash, junk, food waste, 100 syringes and 300 mounds of dog and human waste.

Zilch UK out to stop litter from the sky

March 18th is the cut-off date for signing an important [petition](#) in the UK calling for a ban on “litter from the sky”. Organizers at Zilch UK are halfway to collecting the 100,000 signatures needed to send the petition to legislators and initiate a debate on banning the release of balloons and sky lanterns. An [online campaign](#) on Thunderclap makes it easy to sign, share and rally for the petition. “Balloon and sky lantern releases, even supposedly biodegradable ones, create litter and entangle and choke both wild and domestic creatures. Balloons also consume reserves of helium while lanterns cause fires and waste the time of our emergency services when they are mistaken for distress signals. Furthermore, both can endanger aircraft,” the group said. Raise awareness on Twitter with the handle #StopLitterFromTheSky. [Info here.](#)

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 18 - 25)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Deposit schemes reduce ocean litter: study (2/21)

Container deposit legislation seems to be working, says a study in [Marine Policy](#) magazine. The study’s authors conclude that beverage container litter on coasts is 40 per cent less where a deposit-return law exists.

“Trash Girl” triumphs over bullying (2/21)

Nadia Sparkes, 12, refused to cower when bullies at her school labelled her “Trash Girl” and belittled her litter-picking, anti-litter advocacy. Instead, she “owned” the name, set up a Team Trash Girl [Facebook page](#) and local artists designed her a logo, says a story on website *One Green Planet* promoting its [CrushPlastic](#) campaign.

Tobago wants its people to be litter wardens (2/23)

For Tobago to wrestle its litter problem to the ground, citizens need to be their own litter wardens, said assembly member, Councillor Kwesi Des Vignes. The island wants to be known as clean, green, safe and serene and people should police their actions, he said.

Zambia gets a gift of garbage trucks (2/23)

Zambian Breweries announced it will help in the fight against litter by donating two garbage trucks to Lusaka waste collectors, who sell recyclables to make a living.

Third day of the month will be special (2/23)

Disturbed by the litter destruction of Welsh coastline in Millennium Coastal Path, politician Lee Waters will launch a program in Llanelli on March 3 asking residents to pick up three pieces of litter on the third day of each month.