

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://litterpreventionprogram.com)

March 31, 2019

## [EU to phase out certain plastic items](#)

On Wednesday the European Parliament voted 560 to 35 to ban single use plastic items such as straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers by 2021. Another 28 EU members abstained from voting. The historic decision will be "paving the way for the rest of the world," said European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans. Covered by the [new rules](#) are plastic forks, knives, spoons, plates, straws, cotton buds, balloon sticks, oxo-degradable plastic and food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene.

## [Balloons are litter, new law proposes](#)

The practice of letting balloons loose in the sky is blowing up in Maine, where legislator Lydia Blume has suggested a law to tackle balloon litter due to its killing impact on animals who ingest remnants. The bill legally defines balloons as litter and calls for a \$250 fine to anyone who deliberately releases them.

## [The Last Straw serves as a model](#)

Mornington Peninsula, AU has tasted a sip of success with its program to replace plastic straws in restaurants with a paper variety. The area's Last Straw group went to several communities and engaged café owners in a free swap. Josie Jones, a program mover and shaker, said one-third of those establishments switched for good.

## [Mayor runs anti-litter half marathon](#)

In Zimbabwe, 500 athletes of all ages and abilities are expected June 8 for the Beitbridge Mayor's half marathon where the overarching point is to raise awareness about litter. Registration just opened for the 21km, 12km and 5km races, which are sponsored by Sanctuary Insurance Company. The event aims to reduce rampant littering along highways leading to and from Lutumba Business Centre and draw attention to problems related to drug abuse in Beitbridge, a border town which generates 700 tonnes of solid waste per month.

## DID YOU KNOW?



While in England, Canadian rock legend Bryan Adams tweeted his star powered support for The Great British Spring Clean, a month-long national effort. "It's a big thing!" - Thank you for your support Bryan!!" said the organizers at Keep Britain Tidy in a retweet March 11.



Photo: Pat Koabel

Naples Zoo in southwest Florida has been housing an unusual set of animals since November.

[Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea](#), on display until April 21, features larger-than-life, sculptures of marine animals, 11 of 70 created by Oregon artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi from various littered plastics collected from beaches. Read more [here](#).

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 24 - 31)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Politicians and county staff roll up sleeves [\(3/27\)](#)**

Twenty officials in Lawrence County, Ohio jumped aboard to clean up U.S. Highway 52 and put their faces on a campaign called Project First Impression. In the one foray, they stuffed 509 bags with litter. It's important that politicians work alongside volunteers and staff, said the lead organizer: "Actions speak louder than words."

### **Meth lab litter warning in Michigan County [\(3/27\)](#)**

Although none has been found this year, St. Clair County Sheriff's Office has cautioned litter pickers about meth lab litter contamination, reminding them to avoid plastic bottles containing a white, milky residue.

### **TrashTag video from Switzerland is on trend [\(3/29\)](#)**

A Swiss [video](#) that celebrates the newly emerging #trashtag social media trend was posted this week. Reports from China indicate a strong take-up there as well for sharing before and after cleanup photos. The fledgling phenomenon began on March 5 when Byron Román of Arizona took to Facebook to share his shots.

### **Non-flushable wipes in EU getting new rules [\(3/28\)](#)**

In the new European regime around single-use plastics, regulations for wet wipes will try to stop people from flushing and littering them. Packaging will require revamping to inform potential customers that the wipes contain plastic and could be environmentally hazardous.