

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

litterpreventionprogram.com

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PPE the story globally

The littering of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the midst of a killing viral pandemic continues to confound right-thinking people everywhere. Parking lots, especially at grocery stores, are now prime hot spots for the dropping of face masks and rubber gloves. In Santa Maria, CA FoodMax employee, Kevin Brewer, spoke out, hoping to get shoppers to stop the drop. The proper thing to do is bin a PPE, bagging it first if possible. It is up to people who see this behavior to call it into check. They can ask the littering person not to add another problem to this viral mix and/or report the situation to store management.



ANGER GROWS. Zsuzsa Farrell, of Leathers Don't Litter, articulates in imagery what most of us feel upon seeing littered plastic and rubber gloves, a problem which handlers of the COVID-19 pandemic surely do not need. Group co-founders Zsuzsa and husband Gerry own an [ad agency](#) and donate their talents.

Tips from a statewide cleanup

A memo from Massachusetts: Postpone all group cleanups while the novel coronavirus is spreading. Many events were slated across the state until April 30. However, that doesn't mean surroundings have to stay blighted. The state anti-litter body advised that individuals and small groups can still clean up. "Be sure to wear gloves, use trash grabber tools, wash up, and stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart," says Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.

COVID-19 litter a contagion Toronto

This week Toronto Mayor John Tory spoke out about the glove and mask littering problem that is plaguing his city. In suggesting people refrain from such "boneheaded conduct" the mayor stopped short of ordering a newly deputized and expanded enforcement team, set up to police physical distancing measures, to also ticket for littering, especially of personal protective equipment. When asking nicely doesn't bring about compliance, unleashing penalties makes a lot of sense.

DID YOU KNOW?

[A new study](#) from the University of Exeter, the Marine Conservation Society and Natural England found no discernible difference in litter levels between protected marine protected areas and unprotected areas of England's coasts. "Human activity" was pinpointed as the main source of beach litter and plastic was the most prolifically littered material.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 5 - 12)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Solo cleanups in Penn Hills advocated [\(4/7\)](#)

Organized cleanups being cancelled here, there and everywhere, Pittsburgh's Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group wants people who tackle litter there to stay engaged, not shrink away. Being an elite activity that can be done at a safe distance and is great exercise, not to mention immensely beneficial and satisfying in these troubled times, solo treks are the way to go.

H.E.L.P. on Earth Day still needed all month [\(4/8\)](#)

To mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, H.E.L.P. is on the way in Boxford, MA. This year the Help Eliminate Litter Program is asking residents to tidy up safely during April on their own to make a difference.

The unique way to keep people involved [\(4/9\)](#)

On May 10 Livingstone Parish, LA will hold *Ten on the 10th*, an event orchestrated by Litter Free LP. The goal is to have everyone pick up ten pieces of litter on the 10th and send in photographs of their work for posting on social media at #litterfreelp and #10onthe10th.

Higher fines an attempt to suppress problem [\(4/10\)](#)

Boston Police warned that wanton disposers of face masks and gloves could be met with a \$5,500 fine.

Edmonton offers help to abate PPE mess [\(4/7\)](#)

Edmonton is trying to keep the street-cleaning spirit alive in the wake of rabid glove and mask littering. The city is sending kits of cleaning supplies – like bags, a litter grabber, and gloves – to business owners, for whom cleaning up only adds to their considerable woes.