

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

May 17, 2020

## Bugged by litter in Marion Co.



Back in March police in Marion County nabbed the "White Paper Bandit", a man they had been pursuing for a long time. He had been dumping a variety of waste items including hundreds of pieces of white paper every week for two years. Cleanup volunteers in the community helped police catch the suspect.



## An unnatural nest of plastic

The extent of remnant plastics littering the environment is heartbreakingly illustrated the photo at left, sadly, a bird's nest is made mostly of plastic, instead of twigs, grass and mud. The danger here is that when a bird or animal eats plastic it can kill them.

## Ontario attempt missed mark: expert

The Ontario government's annual "day of action" on litter May 12 fell flat. Hobbled by school and business closures due to COVID-19, all that was left was a poorly promoted awareness campaign online. At *Litterland's* request a veteran creator of award-winning solid waste campaigns for one of North America's largest cities evaluated the [web page](#). She asked, "Where's the litter content - facts, stats, images? So easy to find, why not include?" She liked the tips given for reducing waste, but felt they warranted a sidebar since littering is supposed to be the main focus. Another problem? Cultural diversity isn't portrayed either. Lastly, the overall lack of publicity "tells me this province is not serious about eliminating litter," our expert opined.

## How Dubai solved PPE littering!

Littered masks and gloves (PPE) during the COVID-19 aren't a problem in Dubai. The city dealt with it smartly and swiftly. Officials anticipated the type of litter the pandemic would generate. In March they told their waste management partners to provide bins for disposing of these items then issued an advisory to residents and businesses, and everyone cooperated. "No improper disposal has been observed by the municipality," said Abdulmajeed Saifaie, Dubai's director of waste management. Other cities, take note!

## Boom to lower in Beijing June 1

A newly legislated code of civilized behavior is due to take effect in Beijing on June 1. Penalties will be applied for acts of public spitting, littering, throwing objects from a high altitude, eating on a subway carriage, walking dogs without a leash, etc. The new regulations also encourage good deeds, "courageous and righteous acts."

## DID YOU KNOW?

Switzerland's Office of the Environment (FOEN) [unveiled](#) a new [web page](#) on plastic pollution (14,000 tonnes annually) and ten fact sheets on the pressing issues such as [littering](#) (2,700 tonnes of plastic annually).

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 10 - 17)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### Lebanon not immune from the PPE plague (5/13)

Disposable gloves and masks plague the streets and beaches of the Middle East from Baghdad to Gaza. Photographer Omar Frangieh created "Invaders in Beirut" [Facebook page](#) to display his pictures of the mess there.

### An invasive species outside the goldfish bowl (5/13)

Who knew goldfish could be littered? Lake minders in Scugog, Ontario are warning not to release pet goldfish into open waters. There they become invasive, voracious habitat destroyers, growing up to 8 pounds in size.

### Solar powered bins destined for the beach (5/12)

Southampton Town, NY hopes to install three Big Belly solar trash compactors on popular Foster Memorial Beach this summer to foil illicit dumping.

### Stopping the flow of litter in Alabama (5/15)

Alabama won \$500,000 in federal EPA grant money for Help Keep Our Waters Clean, roadside education involving highway signs, sculptures and collection sites, for keeping litter out of the watershed and stopping it from entering the Gulf of Mexico.

### Canine gains celebrity for litter retrieval skills (5/14)

Molly, a Labrador retriever living in the North Yorkshire town of Scarborough, has picked up 250,000 littered items in the past two years, Mirror UK reported this week.