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# TRASH TALK WITH THE LITTER HERO

A HILLSBOROUGH CLEAN COMMUNITIES PUBLICATION



## How COVID-19 Is Impacting Litter Cleanups and Ways You Can Still Celebrate Earth Day

WRITTEN BY SHEILA CASTELLANO,  
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

How can we promote a clean and litter free environment during COVID-19? With many trash disposal programs and litter events being temporarily closed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it leaves many to wonder what the environmental impact will be if people do not properly dispose of trash and other bulk items during this time. It has been noted the virus can continue to live on items, which makes litter cleanups during this time a dangerous activity. The Department of Public Works wants to assure residents the Auten Road site will re-open once the threat has passed to allow for residents to properly dispose of their bulk items.



The Hillsborough Township Clean Communities and the Department of Public Works has noticed an increase in litter and illegal dumping along roadways, parks, open space, parking lots and other areas.

Hillsborough Clean Communities wants to remind residents that littering and illegal dumping is still a crime and anyone caught will be turned over to the Police. This includes discarded gloves and masks, as well as, cigarettes that are thrown from moving vehicles or improperly disposed of. Hillsborough Clean Communities, along with the Department of Public Works appreciates your cooperation in keeping Hillsborough clean and reducing the spread of COVID-19. Please report any littering or illegal dumping activity to the Police at 908-369-4323 and to Hillsborough Clean Communities and Public Works by emailing [dpw@hillsborough-nj.org](mailto:dpw@hillsborough-nj.org). Pictures and proof are always helpful. Reducing the number of items littered will not only help protect our environment, it will also help protect our residents and our crews from the spread of COVID-19.

### ***LITTER ALONG HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS***



Sandy Huber, Executive Director for the New Jersey Clean Communities Council has published the following statement regarding litter cleanups during this time.

"In support of state and federal mandates to curb the spread of COVID 19, and for the safety of our residents, the NJ Clean Communities Council is asking its network of coordinators and volunteers to postpone all volunteer cleanups until further notice."



Sandy continues, "Supplies for Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Highway cleanups will not be provided during this period. There will be no trash pickup for volunteer cleanups under the jurisdiction of the Council. The deadline for submitting statistical reports will be extended. Please remember to practice all of the CDC recommended practices to keep you, your family, and ultimately all of us, safe. We will let you know when it is safe to resume normal activities. Please contact me on my cell at 856-235-5599 with questions or concerns."



Additionally, the New Jersey Clean Communities Council also stated: "NJCCC is urging New Jerseyans to properly dispose of gloves and masks, and appreciate the efforts of our Clean Communities Coordinators to help spread the message. We are pleased that municipal officials are also doing their part."

***IN ORDER TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPER WAY TO REMOVE GLOVES.***

Kaptein Cleanup wants to remind all residents to discard all personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, wipes, or disposable face coverings responsibly.



*Kaptein Cleanup*

**DO SOMETHING  
TODAY THAT THE  
FUTURE WILL  
THANK YOU FOR.**

*Our actions and decisions today will shape  
the way we will be living in the future.*





## What can I do to celebrate Earth Day since the scheduled Earth Day Cleanup has been cancelled?

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Since the events scheduled have been cancelled or temporarily postponed here are some ways you can celebrate Earth Day at home:

1. Plant something: A tree, a flower, a garden or something you can cultivate and watch grow and have pride in. Making things beautiful and continuing to care for the Earth, even in a small personal way, is making a difference. Send your photos of how you are celebrating Earth Day to [dpw@hillsborough-nj.org](mailto:dpw@hillsborough-nj.org). We will post them on our website and facebook page and in a special section of the Mayor's e-Newsletter.

2. Take an Earth Day Challenge: Commit to 5-10 things you will continue to do over the course of the year to make a difference in the environment. This could be anything from reducing to reusing to teaching others and being an advocate for the earth.

3. Educate: Research and educate yourself on ways you can reduce your carbon footprint. Did you know a plastic toothbrush takes hundreds of years to biodegrade? When it is time for a new toothbrush why not try one that is biodegradable, like one made of bamboo. There are so many ways you can reduce your use of plastics. Did you know that it is estimated that over 8 million tons of plastic enters our oceans every year? Did you know that the trash vortex or 'Garbage Patch' is about the size of Texas in the North Pacific? Did you know that approximately 100,000 marine animals are killed each year by plastic debris and ingested plastic microbeads found in many plastic products become part of our food supply? Education and communication and action are the key elements to change. Commit to making the Earth a better place than you found it.

4. Spread the word: Communicate your finding with neighbors and friends and encourage them to make a commitment themselves.

Sometimes when it seems like things are beyond our control we can remember that we still have control over our daily choices in our own lives. At the end of the day we can still celebrate Earth Day as a community, we will just be celebrating from afar while safe at home. It's all how you look at it. Stay Postive. Be Well. Stay Safe.

