

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle Dunn, Program Coordinator
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Tel: (724) 836-4121 x113
Email: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org
Web site: www.keeppabeautiful.org



Pick Up Pennsylvania Community Improvement Initiative in Full Swing

~ March 1 through May 31 ~



(April 8, 2021) Pick Up Pennsylvania is in full swing. The community improvement initiative opened to the public on March 1 and will continue through May 31. This annual initiative offers registered participants free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests provided by support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful, as supplies last. Events can include litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, community greening and beautification, special collections and public education events. Events must be registered at gacofpa.org to receive free cleanup supplies.

As part of this event, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring trash disposal, free of charge or at a reduced rate, for registered program participants at participating landfills from April 1 through April 30, with prior approval.

Each year, volunteers remove an average of 7 million pounds of trash and tires from our roads, waterways, parks, trails and other shared public spaces, through this initiative.

On March 20, Frank Noss and his brother, coordinated a cleanup of the north and south exits of Route 119 in Everson, Fayette County. "We filled 25 large garbage bags with miscellaneous

debris, a variety of bottles, cans, single use food containers and lots of corrugated plastic signs. Some areas were so thick with discarded plastic bottles that the shoulder of the road would crunch and crackle as you walked along. PennDOT County maintenance provided Litter Crew Ahead signs for safety and promptly collected the bags of trash. Many passersby honked their horns in appreciation and some drivers actually stopped to say thank you,” said Noss.

“There is so much litter out there. We are thankful for the people who are eager to make a difference. Early spring is the perfect time to organize or participate in a litter sweep, before it greens up and the vegetation camouflages the litter,” explained Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “It’s something that almost everybody can do. It’s a great feeling and the results are immediate. We invite everyone to join us.”

A video created in partnership with the PA Department of Environmental protection, PennDOT and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is available free for downloading, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), to help increase awareness of the Pick Up Pennsylvania campaign. Visit Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/KeepPABeautiful/videos>. Municipalities, legislative and community leaders, media and others are encouraged to share the video.

2021 participants are asked to observe the most recent social distancing guidelines and are encouraged to clean up in small groups, with family members or solo. To host an event, join an event near you or to inquire about free supplies and trash disposal, visit gacofpa.org or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Anyone participating in Pick Up Pennsylvania can earn cash prizes for their nonprofit or charity of choice by entering the Pick Up Pennsylvania Video Contest. Send Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful a 60-second video of your event showing how you keep Pennsylvania beautiful. Your event must be registered with Pick Up Pennsylvania to participate. For details go to gacofpa.org and choose Video Contest.

Current 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania supporters include: Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania funded by the NiSource Charitable Foundation, The Giant Company, Coca-Cola, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Wawa, Giant Eagle, Luminent - Fayette Energy Facility, Mahantango Enterprises, Inc., Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Republic Services and Wegmans.

If you are interested in becoming a supporter of the 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative contact Shannon Reiter at 724-836-4121 or sreiter@keeppabeautiful.org.

###

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has worked with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the state to pick up nearly 148 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania’s roadways, waterways, greenways, vacant lots, forestlands and other community spaces. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation’s largest volunteer-based community action and

education organization. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.