

GOING GREEN

# Don't smoke out our environment

Cigarettes are full of toxins and can take as long as 10 years to decompose

BY CHRISTY SEYLER

This week "Going Green" is about something I've noticed in our community that can totally be fixed and it's not hard at all — I promise.

This advice is for all the smokers in our community (don't worry, I'm not going to tell you to stop smoking, that is your decision and your right, but you do not have a right to trash our town with the butts).

If you are smoker, please take the time to put out your cigarette and dispose of it in a trash can. Don't throw it out your car window and don't throw it on the sidewalk. It's disgusting and it's polluting.

I've noticed since the smoking ban started, the number of cigarette butts on the sidewalk outside of bars and restaurants has increased. Gross!

Why do I have a problem with smokers doing this? Oh, I have very good reasons. First, it makes our town look dirty. We live in a great town, so why make it look bad when it's not?

My next problem with the lazy smokers deals with the effects this has on the environment. I started looking into what all these cigarette butts are doing to our community and I found out some very interesting and sad facts. On about.com I found a great article, "Cigarette Litter and How it Affects Us."

It describes what's in cigarette filters and how they damage our environment. Here is what it said: "The core of most cigarette filters — the part that looks like white cotton,



Provided photos

*If you must smoke, be courteous — DON'T LITTER!*

is actually a form of plastic called cellulose acetate. By itself, cellulose acetate is very slow to degrade in our environment. Depending on the conditions of the area the cigarette butt is discarded in, it can take 18 months to 10 years for a cigarette filter to decompose.

"But that isn't the worst of it. Used cigarette filters are full of toxins known as tar, and those chemicals leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that contact them. And, most filters are discarded with bits of tobacco still attached to them as well, further polluting our environment with nicotine."

On top of that, "Toxin-filled cigarette butts work their way into our waterways primarily through storm drains that dump into streams and lakes." That hurts both humans — who drink the water — and animals who live in it (and also drink it).



How can we fix this? I know all the non-smokers are going to say stop smoking, but I get that that's not going to work. So if you are a smoker and your favorite bar, restaurant or even your place of work doesn't have proper cigarette receptacles, demand that they get them.

If you are out walking in a park or nature trail and have to have a smoke, put the cigarette out and then put the butt in your pocket. When you finish your walk, throw it away in the trashcan.

If you are one of those smokers who throw your butts out the window, just STOP! They make ashtrays for cars, go get one and stop being lazy.

Are you a non-smoker whose friends smoke? Watch them and give them a hard time if you see any of this lazy behavior. Don't give up, keep at them and they'll stop.

Remember we all live in this world together and we all need to take action on small things we can fix. Once we get the small ones done we can work on the big ones.



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## ISLANDTIME



### Wednesday, May 26

**BOB GATEWOOD & CALABASH** 2 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Thursday, May 27

**BOB GATEWOOD & CALABASH** 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**THE MENUS** 9:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Friday, May 28

**JESSE DAVIS** 11 a.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**MIKE "MAD DOG" ADAMS** 2 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**DJ BILLY POOLSIDE** 4 p.m., Put-in-Bay Resort, 439 Lorain Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**ACOUSTICA** 4 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WALLY & THE BEAVS** 5 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WEBSTERS** 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**NAKED KARATE GIRLS** 9:30 p.m., Boathouse Bar & Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**THE MENUS** 9:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Saturday, May 29

**DJ BILLY POOLSIDE** 11 a.m., Put-in-Bay Resort, 439 Lorain Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**JESSE DAVIS** 11 a.m., Boathouse Bar & Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**MIKE "MAD DOG" ADAMS** 2 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**DANGER BROTHERS** 2 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**ACOUSTICA** 3 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WALLY & THE BEAVS** 6:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**PAT DAILEY** 7 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**RAY FOGG** 8:30 p.m., Put-in-Bay Brewing Company, 441 Catawba Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WEBSTERS** 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**THE MENUS** 9:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**NAKED KARATE GIRLS** 9:30 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Sunday, May 30

**DJ BILLY POOLSIDE** 11 a.m., Put-in-Bay Resort, 439 Lorain Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**JESSE DAVIS** 11 a.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**THE COCOBEANOS** 2 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**MIKE "MAD DOG" ADAMS** 2 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**ACOUSTICA** 4 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WALLY & THE BEAVS** 5:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**RAY FOGG** 8 p.m., Put-in-Bay Brewing Company, 441 Catawba Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**WEBSTERS** 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

Put-in-Bay.

**THE MENUS** 9:30 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**NAKED KARATE GIRLS** 9:30 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Monday, May 31

**DJ BILLY POOLSIDE** 11 a.m., Put-in-Bay Resort, 439 Lorain Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**ACOUSTICA** 1 p.m., Boathouse Bar and Grill, 218 Hartford Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**MIKE "MAD DOG" ADAMS** 2 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**THE COCOBEANOS** 3 p.m., Beer Barrel Saloon, 1618 Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**KILLER FLAMINGOS** 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

### Tuesday, June 1

**KILLER FLAMINGOS** 2 & 9 p.m., Round House Bar, Delaware Ave., Put-in-Bay.

**BELMONT STAKES**  
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