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COHASSET PUTS ON ITS GLOVES ON NATIONAL CLEAN-UP DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Cohasset's Open Space & Recreation Committee and Just1Bag2020 Encourage Residents to Beautify Town and Independently Pick-Up Litter on September 19

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 - COHASSET, MA – As the pandemic has worn on, more people have found solace and enjoyment in the outdoors by running, walking, and biking. These activities have further exposed the importance of protecting Cohasset's natural resources. Around town, an increase of careless disposal of non-biodegradable, single-use trash and debris like cigarette butts and plastic bottles have raised attention because they are having an impact on open spaces, wetlands, forests, and parks.

For **National Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 19**, the [Open Space & Recreation Committee \(COSRC\)](#) and [Just1Bag2020](#) ask residents to independently pick up litter and make Cohasset a better, cleaner place to live, work and play. [National Clean-Up Day](#) is an international effort to clean parks, trails, beaches, and open spaces.

Says Peter Pescatore, Chairman of the COSRC, "Our hope with National Clean-Up Day is to have a litter-free community and remind people of Cohasset's natural beauty and value. We can do better. The COSRC recommends more town trash receptacles for motorists and walkers; that homeowners should have tighter trash retainers; and that construction sites seal their dumpsters." According to the EPA, 75% of American waste is recyclable, yet 30% is recycled.

COSRC and Just1Bag2020 suggest Cohasset families, friends, and neighborhood groups unite, pick up debris, and recycle. Organizations like the Cohasset Rotary Club will have a volunteer clean-up team.

"Since the new year, our Burgess family project has been to pick up litter every day in and around Cohasset," says Sarah Burgess, a Cohasset resident and a family founder of Just1Bag2020. "We fill three to four plastic bags with a wide assortment including Gatorade bottles, White Claw cans, protective masks, Bud Lite cans, and nips. Just because something is thrown away does not mean it is gone forever. Balloons, plastic bags, and other non-compostable trash blown off trucks end up in the ocean and cause untold damage." To date, the Burgess' incredible efforts have produced 11,500 bags of litter and inspired a remarkable 615 collectors worldwide.

Tips to Start Your Own National Clean-Up Day:

1. Choose a safe location to clean, such as your neighborhood, favorite trail, or boating area. Clean-up during daylight hours in suitable weather conditions.
2. Use a sturdy, reusable shopping bag and wear rubber-lined gloves for protection. Also, use salad or barbecue tongs to provide some separation between you and the litter.

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National Clean-Up Day/ Continued.

3. Practice COVID-19 social distancing and use sanitizer before, during, and after your clean-up. Wear a mask, and do not touch your face.
4. Include the kids and make it fun. Create a scavenger hunt to find different types of trash like a coffee cup or a competition to see who can collect 10-cans the fastest.
5. Consider a handy Litter Clean-Up kit from the [Keep Mass Beautiful](#) organization. Visit the [website](#) for more information.
6. Give credit and show Cohasset's volunteer spirit. Please take a photo of your hard efforts and post it to social media such as [Instagram](#). Tag #Cohasset #OpenSpace #NationalCleanUpDay and #Just1Bag2020.

To learn more about National Clean-Up Day, check out <https://www.nationalcleanupday.org>. The COSRC's purpose is to highlight the town's history and define how residents can sustain the quality of life they currently enjoy through continued focus on the natural resources and recreational amenities that exist or may be needed in the future.

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