

Volunteer (Opportunities) of the Month

As was suggested in *Asylum Hill Then & Now*, there are a few activities that are still compatible with all the restrictions of COVID 19. It seems valuable to try to focus on what we can do. Social distancing, 6 feet apart, puts a real crimp in the way most of us behave, especially when we're volunteering to help others.

However, one thing that it seems could still be done by anyone willing, that's still allowed, at least for now, and benefits us all, is picking up litter.

It only involves taking a walk, bringing along a plastic bag of appropriate size and a pair of nitrile gloves, and then picking up the litter that you find. If you can engage a neighbor or



two to join you, it can still be somewhat social while maintaining the necessary distance apart.

Also, If you're socially media inclined as well, you can take a before and after photo just like in *Asylum Hill Then & Now*, and post them on the *Asylum Hill Living* Facebook group to inspire others. In researching for this column, I made a tour of the neighborhood, and I'm

pleased to report that there seems to be a lot less litter than I'm used to seeing. Not none, and not an acceptable level, but encouraging. We can do this.

Not surprisingly, the worst areas are around the stores, Sargeant St at Woodland, Ashley from Huntington to May and near the shops on Farmington Ave.

Most of the remaining locations are less challenging but just as needing attention, and it's likely that wherever you live, there'll be at least a small shopping bags worth a short walk from your home.

If you're really up for a challenge, you can stop by Sargeant St from May to Woodland, or 248 Collins St at the corner of May St, or S. Marshall at the rear of 70 Forest St as well as the area around 28 Gillett. And of course there's always Sigourney Square Park. Do your own and post before and after photos on *Asylum Hill Living* page on Facebook.



However, if litter pickup isn't your thing, but you're still interested in being helpful, FoodShare needs volunteers in the area to help with distributing bags of food to their clients in the area. For details on that, go to:

<https://foodshare.volunteerhub.com/?scrollToDate=3%2F27%2F2020&bookmarkEventId=11761668#eid11761668>