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### 1. Spring Waterway Cleanup Set for April 18<sup>th</sup>

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2015 are tentatively planned for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am–11am, rain or shine.\* A cleanup will be held on the north side of Dunn's Marsh along Crescent Road at Red Arrow Pond. There may be additional cleanup groups forming in your area. Anyone interested in being a group leader may contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov) or (608) 270-4264 to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood with your neighborhood association.

Fitchburg will provide refreshments and giveaways to all participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear waterproof boots and work gloves. Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations, so plan accordingly. Check for additional details on the Waterway Cleanups closer to the events.

### 2. UW Students To Offer Free Home Water Conservation Evaluations in Dunn's Marsh

On April 18<sup>th</sup> following the waterway cleanup, students from The University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute will be coming around to houses in the Dunn's Marsh neighborhood and providing free **outdoor** water conservation evaluations and checklists from 11a.m.-1p.m. The checklist provides a variety of things you can do to reduce water usage around your home, save money and help protect Dunn's Marsh at the same time. To schedule a water evaluation appointment in advance, please contact Erika Kluetmeier, City of Fitchburg Sustainability Specialist, at [erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274.

### 3. Pledge to Conserve Water During "My Water Pledge" Challenge April 1-30



The **Fourth Annual National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation** has started. Do your part to save our planet by taking 1 minute to go to [MYWATERPLEDGE.COM](http://MYWATERPLEDGE.COM) this Earth Month (April 1-30), and make your pledge to conserve water and energy. By pledging today, you will be eligible for over \$50,000 in prizes like a Toyota Prius v, an iPad mini, and a \$1000 green home improvement shopping spree! For more tips on water conservation, visit our [website](#).

### 4. Earth Month Programs Abound this April at Fitchburg Library

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and we have plenty of earth-friendly programming for both adults and kids to share with you this month. Join us to learn about ways to help the earth at home this month!

#### Adults:

- "Bike Tune-up Workshop" presented by Freewheel Bikes on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00-4:00 p.m. Cyclists from teen to adults are invited to learn how to perform simple fixes to prepare for the riding season. To register, please call (608)729-1763, or email [matthew.heindel@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:matthew.heindel@fitchburgwi.gov).



- “**All About Rain Barrels**” presentation by EnAct, Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A/B
- “**Best of the Web: Gardening**,” Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Technology Center. Learn about great websites and apps to help plan your spring planting!

**Kids:**

- “**Going Green – Earth Day Celebration**,” Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m., in Meeting Room A/B. Join us for stories and environmentally-friendly crafts for kids ages 2-5.
- “**Planting for Spring**” on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. We’ll talk about our Seed Library, learn some fun seed facts, and even do some spring planting. Both adults and kids (ages 4-12) are encouraged to attend

It’s not too late to drop off recyclables (clean egg cartons, tin cans, plastic water bottles, and toilet paper and paper towel rolls) for April Earth Month kids’ programs. For more details, please contact [kate.hull@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:kate.hull@fitchburgwi.gov) or 608-729-1763.

**5. Fitchburg Seniors Invited to Bike Maintenance Workshop on April 21<sup>st</sup>**

On Tuesday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m. the Fitchburg Senior Center will be teaming up with Fitchburg Cycles. Join us at Fitchburg Cycles to learn what it takes to change a tire, feather your gears to run smoothly, and the kick-off to the bike season. This event is also a great opportunity to meet others in the Senior Center biking club. Bike on over and be part of this great program. Right next to the Great Dane, 2970 Cahill Main. Any questions, contact David at 270-4292



**6. May 2<sup>nd</sup> Events Mark Arbor Day, National Migratory Bird Day**



**What:** Fitchburg Arbor Day – Migratory Bird Day Celebration

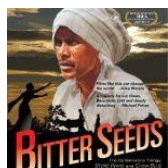
**When:** May 2, 2015, 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

**Where:** McKee Farms Park

The City will again be holding a joint celebration of Arbor Day & International Migratory Bird Day to bring attention to the importance of trees and birds in our community. This will be a morning packed with fun and educational activities for all ages, including a tree planting event, birding for all, bird-feeder building and refreshments. Last year’s live raptor program put on by REGI was a big hit and we’ll be bringing these feathered educators back. Contact Ed Bartell [ed.bartell@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:ed.bartell@fitchburgwi.gov) for more information.

**7. Fitchburg Green Thursday Film: *Bitter Seeds***

**Thursday, May 7, 6:30-8 p.m., Fitchburg Public Library – Room A/B**



Every 30 minutes a farmer in India kills himself because he can no longer provide for his family. With biotechnology changing the way farming is done all over the world, some believe the “New Green Revolution” is the only way to provide sufficient food for the world’s growing population, while others raise environmental concerns, and fear that GMOs drive small-scale farmers off the land. The film is shot from a village at the center of the crisis.

**8. Fitchburg’s Green Spring Cleanup Day May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m.**

Fitchburg is making it even easier to Spring Clean in a green way! For the first time, we are hosting a **local** Clean Sweep event on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at the Public Works Maintenance Facility, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. to make to make disposal of these hazardous household products more convenient.

Do you have unneeded **hazardous household products**, such as: pesticides, poisons, ignitables, aerosols, fertilizers, household cleaners, or automotive fluids taking up space? As



you may be aware, these and other household wastes can be harmful to the environment and your health, so they require special disposal. They should not be placed in your refuse container.

To cover the cost of disposal, we are required to charge \$10/vehicle at this event. Latex paint cannot be accepted; however, if you have less than ~1" of latex paint in your container, leave the lid off, let the paint dry and toss the container in your refuse cart. If you have more than ~1", share it with someone who can use it by posting it on [Freecycle](http://www.freecycle.org).

Fitchburg's local **Clean Sweep** will coincide with **Electronics Recycling** (Surplus IT, 901 Watson Ave.), **Shred Day** (Oak Bank, 5951 McKee Rd) and **Med Drop** (Police Station lobby), all on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 - 11:00am. In addition to these organized collections, you can also drop off the following items, at no charge, at the indicated locations for reuse or recycling:

- **Alkaline or Rechargeable Batteries** - Drop Off container, Fitchburg City Hall lobby
- **Eyeglasses (including prescription sunglasses) & Hearing Aids**
  - Drop-Off container, Fitchburg City Hall lobby
  - Drop-Off container, Fitchburg library, main entrance
- **Cell Phones** – Drop-Off container, Fitchburg City Hall lobby
- **Florescent Light Bulbs** - Home Depot, Menards or any other store that sells them
- **Styrofoam Packing Material** (not peanuts\*)
  - Fitchburg's Drop-Off site, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.
  - \*Packing peanuts are accepted at the Electronics Recycling event
- **Expired or Surplus Medications** (except narcotics) - Police Station M-F 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.
- **Expired or Surplus Narcotics** - Hometown Pharmacy, Cahill Main
- **Useable items that you no longer need/want**, including surplus paint; unneeded indoor or outdoor furniture; seasonal decorations; VCR tapes; plants; lawn equipment; tools . . . just about anything. Post them on **Freecycle** [http://my.freecycle.org/](http://my.freecycle.org). Membership and items are free; posts are monitored.

Information about other options for recycling may be found in Fitchburg's 2015 Recycling Guide on Fitchburg's web page at: [fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste). Hard copies are available in Fitchburg City Hall Lobby.

### 9. Agriculture Past and Present Bike Tour Set for May 16

The City of Fitchburg will host its third annual "Agriculture Past and Present Bike Tour" on the Badger State Trail on Saturday, May 16 from 9:45 a.m.-noon. The bike tour provides an opportunity to showcase some of the City's agriculture enterprises/businesses and also expose City residents and others to the importance of agriculture to the City's and region's economy, identity, culture and history. For more information or to register, go to Fitchburg's City News [website](#).



### 10. Fitchburg Bike Rodeo on May 23<sup>rd</sup> Offers Bike Skills, Ice Cream, Painting, and More!

Join us for Fitchburg's Annual Bike Rodeo and "Bike to Books" Ride on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 a.m.-noon at Hatchery Hill Town Center, 2970 Cahill Main (parking lot near Copps food store). A biking course will teach safe riding skills, along with painting activities with Artful Escapes, bike checks by Fitchburg Cycles, a guided ride to the library with Fitchburg bike patrol officers for stories and ice cream, and more! For more information, contact:

[ahnaray.bizjak@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:ahnaray.bizjak@fitchburgwi.gov).

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Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov), Sustainability Specialist, at [erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions on future Green E-News topics.