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1. Fitchburg's Green Spring Cleanup Day May 9th 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 9th from 8-11 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, aerosols, fertilizers, household cleaners, ignitables or automotive fluids taking up space? 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 disposal costs, 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", you can post it on [Freecycle](#) for reuse.

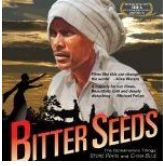
Fitchburg's local **Clean Sweep** will coincide with **Electronics Recycling** (Surplus IT, 901 Watson Ave.), **Shred Day** (Oak Bank, 5951 McKee Rd) and **Med Drop** (Police Station lobby), all on May 9th from 8-11 a.m. You can also drop off the following items at no charge for reuse or recycling anytime:

- **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 store selling 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 and Narcotics** - Police Station M-F 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.
- **Expired or Surplus Medications** (except narcotics) - Hometown Pharmacy, Cahill Main
- **Unwanted/Unneeded Useable Items** - paint, indoor or outdoor furniture, seasonal decorations, VCRs, plants, lawn equipment, etc. Post on [Freecycle](#); 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. Hard copies are available in Fitchburg City Hall Lobby.

2. 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.

3. Fitchburg Farmers’ Market Returns May 7th

Stop in at the Fitchburg Farmers’ Market every Thursday at 3-6 p.m. from May-October at the Agora Pavillion, 5511 East Cheryl Parkway. Featuring locally sources, quality food products, this week’s feature items are cheese curds, hanging baskets, fresh baked breads, maple syrup, and kettle corn. More vendors and products are added weekly!



4. Stop By the UW Arboretum Native Plant Sale May 9th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Friends of the Arboretum invite you to their annual native plant sale this Saturday, May 9th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in tents next to the Arboretum Visitor Center. The sale offers a large crowd of enthusiastic gardeners more than 100 species of native plants suitable for a variety of soil and light conditions: including native grasses; woodland, prairie and savanna plants; trees and shrubs.

No plants are dug from the wild. All are native to the area and, once established, require minimal care. During the sale, experts are available to answer questions. Members of Friends of the Arboretum receive a discount on all purchases on plants in the tent sale on May 9.

5. This Spring Take Steps to Stop the Spread of Garlic Mustard



Garlic mustard plants seem to be getting an earlier start every year, yet thankfully there are many things residents can do to stop the spread of this aggressive invasive plant. Garlic mustard is a cool-weather, shade-tolerant plant that spreads quickly in yards and forests. It out-competes wildflowers and other important forage plants necessary for many animals. Garlic mustard is easily identifiable by its leaves, which are small and heart-shaped with scalloped edges. Leaves give off a garlic-like fragrance when crushed. The flowers are small and white with four-petals arranged in an ‘X’.

It is ideal to pull plants by hand in early spring before the seeds set. Pulling or cutting the root from the stem before flowering is an effective way to stop the spread of garlic mustard. If soil conditions allow, pull the plant to remove the root. (Pulling second-year plants is easier than pulling first-year rosettes.) You can also cut the entire root with a sharp shovel or spade 1–2” below the surface. If flowers are present, place the plant material in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your green refuse cart to avoid potential for seed to spread. Since garlic mustard seeds are not destroyed by compost heat, they should not be put in a compost bin or included with yard waste for curbside pickup. Visit Fitchburg’s [invasive webpage](#) for more information.

Many residents and businesses have been identifying and removing garlic mustard and other invasive plants (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Hedge Parsley, Dames Rocket, Wild Parsnip, etc.) from their property. This is great! To fully eradicate these highly invasive plants, they need to be sent to the landfill so the seeds can’t mature and start new plants. If you have small amounts, you can just bag them and place in your green refuse cart. For large amounts, you can bag them and place them in the dumpster marked “Yardwaste Bags, Invasive Plants & Empty Oil Containers Only” at Fitchburg’s Recycling Drop Off Site, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.

6. 'My Earth' Energy-Tracking App Encourages Sustainable Behaviors



A UW-Madison professor designed a new app, called My Earth, with a diary format in which users can choose daily activities to reduce their carbon emissions and energy consumption. The free app is available for both iOS and Android platforms.

The app is organized with five main categories: electricity, recycling, travel, food and usage. Each category includes day-to-day activities as simple as recycling a milk jug to more complicated actions, such as upgrading to a high-efficiency toilet that reduces the need for energy-intensive wastewater treatment.

7. Join the Agriculture Past and Present Bike Tour on May 16th

The City of Fitchburg will host its third annual "Agriculture Past and Present Bike Tour" on Saturday, May 16 from 9:45 a.m.-noon on the Badger State Trail. 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](#).



8. Fitchburg Bike Rodeo on May 23rd Offers Bike Skills, Guided Ride, Painting, and More!



Join us for Fitchburg's Annual Bike Rodeo and "Bike to Books" Ride on Saturday, May 23rd from 10 a.m.-noon at Hatchery Hill Town Center, 2970 Cahill Main (parking lot near Fitchburg Cycles). 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 treats, and more! For more information, contact:

ahnaray.bizjak@fitchburgwi.gov

9. Celebrate the Dawley Bike Hub Grand Opening on June 6th

Please join the City of Fitchburg on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 9-11 a.m. for the Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony of the long-awaited Dawley Bike Hub, 3040 S. Seminole Hwy. This ceremony is a celebration of not only the Dawley Bike Hub, but the many bicycle-related improvements completed throughout the entire City in 2014.



Between contributions from the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Partners for Area Recreation, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Dane County Parks, the following 2014 projects were completed:

- 1) Opening of the Bike Hub, complete with bike repair station, bike-tire pump, restrooms, water fountain with water bottle spigot, bicycle map, benches, and a beautiful view!
- 2) Opening of the Dane County Seminole Mountain Bike Trails
- 3) Opening of the Military Ridge Path overpass of County Hwy PD
- 4) Completion of the Military Ridge Path and Cannonball Path including bicycle way-finding signage
- 5) Completion of a tunnel for the Military Ridge Path under Sprocket Drive
- 6) Boardwalk connection between Belmar neighborhood and the Cannonball Path
- 7) Extension of the shared-use path on the west side of Fish Hatchery Road down to Whalen Road

Speakers at the Grand Opening include Fitchburg Mayor Steve Arnold and former Fitchburg Parks Commission Member Tom Darcy. Following the grand opening, the City invites you to explore these improvements by riding your bike around town! Bring your bikes and enjoy National Trail Day on these wonderful paths and trails or bike down to the Summer Trails Festival on the Capitol City Trail. Maps will be available to identify the locations for these improvements and routes that could be taken to check them out!

10. Summer Trails Festival Kicks Off June 6th on the Capitol City Trail

\$5 donation / person
\$15 / family - age 3 & under free

**FIRST ANNUAL
SUMMER
TRAILS
FESTIVAL**

madisonaudubon.org/trailsfest

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Join Madison Audubon, Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, and Dane County Parks on NATIONAL TRAILS DAY to kick off your summer outdoor adventures!

GUIDED HIKES · LIVE RAPTORS
BIKE MAINTENANCE STATION
FOOD CARTS · CRAFT BEER

**FAMILY FRIENDLY
OUTDOOR FUN!**

**ON THE CAPITAL CITY TRAIL
ACROSS FROM THE LUSSIER
FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER**

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