

## In This Issue

1. Fitchburg Scores a Silver 'Bicycle Friendly City' Award
2. Simple Tips to Reduce and Recycle Waste this Holiday Season
3. Holiday Tree Collection Starts Jan. 4th recycling
4. 2016 Solid Waste Collection Calendar Available Online
5. State Trail Passes for Sale at Fitchburg Community Center
6. Bring Your Cardboard Boxes to Fitchburg Library by Jan. 7th
7. Community Calendar

## Fitchburg Scores a Silver Bike Friendly City Award



The League of American Bicyclists awarded a silver designation to the City of Fitchburg this month in the latest round of Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) awards, part of its national Bicycle Friendly America program, which recognizes states, communities, universities, and businesses for their efforts to provide safe conditions and encouragement for bicycle transportation and recreation. Fitchburg earned a bronze award in 2012.

“We are thrilled to receive this recognition after three more years of relentless work to make Fitchburg a great biking destination while contributing to a safer and more comfortable regional network,” says Mayor Steve Arnold, who is an active and enthusiastic cyclist. “We have been working in all these areas to make Fitchburg a healthier, safer, more sustainable, and more vibrant place to live, work and visit by bike. This award shows that those efforts are paying off.”

Highlights of Fitchburg’s accomplishments since 2012 that contributed to their BFC silver status include:

- New facilities, including the first-ever bike roundabout in Wisconsin, Dawley Bike Hub, Military Ridge Path with overpass and tunnel crossings, Cannonball Path with Belmar boardwalk connection, and Dane County’s Seminole Mountain Bike Trails
- An official Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee within city government
- An independent, local advocacy organization: Fitchburg Bicycling Advocates
- New adult bicycle safety classes through Fitchburg’s Recreation Department
- New events and programs to encourage bicycle commuting and transportation
- A county-wide wayfinding signage system and installation of signage at the bicycle roundabout
- Annual volunteer counts of bicyclists

## Simple Tips to Reduce and Recycle Waste This Holiday Season

Extra packaging and materials from holiday celebrations and gift exchanges can leave your refuse and recycling carts overflowing. Americans typically generate 25% more waste during the holidays. Much of your holiday packaging can be recycled curbside in your recycling cart or dropped off at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Read on to learn more about what can and cannot be reused or recycled:



- **Wrapping paper** can be recycled in your blue recycling cart as long as it’s paper-based. You must remove all ribbon and bows. **Foil-type or plastic-based** wrapping paper is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.
- **Wrapping paper tubes**, along with paper towel and toilet tissue cores, can be recycled in your blue recycling cart.
- **Tissue paper** is **not** recyclable, and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.

- **Greeting cards and envelopes** that are non-foil and paper-based can be recycled in your blue cart, but non-paper items such as metal foil and photographs should be removed and discarded in your green refuse cart.
- **Cardboard and paperboard gift boxes** can be reused or recycled in your blue recycling cart or taken to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site and placed in the cardboard recycling dumpsters. Remove any excess tape or ribbons prior to recycling.
- **Ribbon** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **White block polystyrene**, also known as Styrofoam®, can be taken to the white polystyrene recycling dumpster at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site.
- **Batteries** (both rechargeable and alkaline – AAA to D) can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall E-Cycling Bin, 5520 Lacy Rd., 24/hours per day.
- **Holiday lights and extension cords** can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall Lobby 24/hours per day from now through January 30, 2015. Residents should remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores. Consider buying LED lights to replace your old or broken lights to save energy throughout the holiday season!
- **Holiday Trees** – See adjacent article on Holiday Tree Collection. These trees get chipped and then made available as wood chips and compost at the Recycling Drop Off Site.

View Fitchburg’s Holiday Recycling Guide in English and Spanish at [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste). Additional holiday waste reduction, reuse, or recycling tips are available at: [www.epa.gov/students/holiday.html](http://www.epa.gov/students/holiday.html).

### Holiday Tree Collection Starts Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>



Holiday tree collection will begin the week of January 4<sup>th</sup> for single to four-unit residential homes, as well as apartments and condominium properties subscribed to “brush collection” with the City of Fitchburg. A second holiday tree collection will take place the week of January 19<sup>th</sup>. Trees should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on Monday morning of the collection week.

In case of snow/ice conditions, collection will be delayed until plowing is completed. If your collection is delayed due to snow, please pull your tree back from the curb so it does not become buried in the snow pushed back by the plow. Trees that become frozen or lost in snow banks might not get picked up until the snow banks melt.

Place trees so that the trunks face the street. Remove all foreign matter from each tree, including lights, wire, tinsel, ornaments, plastic bags, tree stands, etc. Trees with foreign matter will not be collected. Trees containing nails or other metal objects will not be chipped because they may damage the chipper and present a safety hazard to the operator. Flocked trees (material sprayed) are not collected, and must be disposed of in the refuse, with a Refuse Tag attached.

Wreaths, although often made from tree branches, are considered refuse if they contain metal or other foreign supporting devices and should be disposed of accordingly. Set wreaths and garland in your refuse cart or in a bag next to your refuse cart with a Refuse Tag attached.

**For holiday lights that no longer work, remember to recycle old light strings at Fitchburg City Hall prior to January 30, 2016.** A special cart is now available 24 hours/day in the City Hall Lobby, 5520 Lacy Road. Fitchburg residents can drop off non-working holiday light strings and extension cords for recycling. Residents must remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores listed in Fitchburg’s Recycling Guide.



For more information on holiday recycling and what types of packing and wrapping materials are recyclable, visit Fitchburg’s website: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste).

### 2016 Solid Waste Collection Calendar Available Online

Visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) for updated recycling and solid waste collection information. The [2016 Solid Waste Collection Calendar](#) is now available.

### State Trail Passes Make the Perfect Holiday Gift

If you are looking for the perfect gift for your favorite outdoor enthusiast, give the gift of access to the great State Trail system within and adjacent to Fitchburg! With special thanks to the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, 2016 State Trail Passes are available for purchase anytime of year at Fitchburg's Community Center, 5510 Lacy Rd, from 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The payment of \$25 per annual State Trail Pass can be received in either cash or check. Visit [DNR's website](#) for more information.

### Bring Your Cardboard Boxes to Fitchburg Library by Jan. 7th



Overwhelmed by boxes and the holidays have just begun? Please feel free to leave any you'd like to pass along (no need to break them down) in the back corner of the underground parking garage under the "Tornado Shelter" sign. The Youth Services Department is having an "Ultimate Box Build-a-Thon" on Friday, January 8, at 4 p.m. (ages 4-10 welcome) and we'd love to put them to good use. Large or unusually shaped boxes are especially welcome. Thanks for your help! For more information, contact Tiffani Roltgen, Fitchburg youth librarian, at 729-1768.

### Community Calendar

- [Strategies for Protecting Children from Climate Change](#), Thursday, January 21, 2016, 12:30 – 1:20pm at the Magnuson Health Sciences Center D in the Turner Auditorium.



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**Enjoy the Holiday Season!**

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Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](#), 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.