

October 9, 2018

## In This Issue

1. Imagine a Day Without Water – October 10, 2018
2. Public Meeting on Fish Hatchery Road Construction – November 8, 2018
3. Med Drop – how to get rid of unwanted medicine
4. Put Your Fall Leaves to Work by Reusing Them in Your Yard
5. Yard Waste Collection Bags
6. Recycling Facts and Trivia

## Imagine a Day Without Water – October 10, 2018



Could you live a day without using water to make your coffee, take a shower, brush your teeth, or flush the toilet? Some communities in America already know how impossible it is to try to go a day without our most precious resource: Water. But many Americans take water for granted every day. Imagine a Day Without Water 2018 is the fourth annual day to raise awareness about the value of water. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Public Meeting on Fish Hatchery Road Construction – November 8, 2018

The City of Fitchburg is preparing for a reconstruction project on North Fish Hatchery Road that is expected to begin in late 2019. The project will improve safety and congestion issues, repair deteriorating infrastructure and provide safer access to existing and future properties. The project website is available at [www.fitchburgwi.gov/2504/Fish-Hatchery-Road-Reconstruction](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2504/Fish-Hatchery-Road-Reconstruction) and will be updated regularly with information and announcements.

The second public meeting will be held *November 8th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at Leopold Elementary School*. This meeting will include a presentation and discussion of preliminary corridor design plans. To attend this event, please [RSVP here](#).

## Med Drop – how to get rid of unwanted medicine

Leftover and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be found in every household in the county. In recent years' unintentional poisonings killed more Dane County residents than automobile crashes. One of the best ways to prevent misuse of medication is to dispose of it in the proper manner and by utilizing your local med drop box location. Read about [Safe Communities Med Drop Box Program](#) for more information.

*Syringes and other sharps are not accepted at the Med Drop Box. The closest sharps collection site to the Fitchburg Police Department is located at the UW Health Fitchburg Clinic, 5543 E Cheryl Parkway. [Med Drop Box Instructions](#).*

Fitchburg Police Department  
**Med Drop Box**  
Monday – Friday  
7:30 am to 4:30pm

## Put Your Fall Leaves to Work by Reusing Them in Your Yard

The colorful autumn season is upon us, and with it, the fall leaf and lawn cleanup. Before hauling your yard waste out to the curb for collection, consider the natural value of your fallen leaves. Fallen leaves and other yard waste are a valuable source of nutrients for your lawn or gardens since they are high in phosphorus, an important nutrient for plant growth and a harmful pollutant that fuels algae and weed growth in our lakes and streams.

You can easily put these nutrients to good use and prevent them from entering storm drains by mulching or composting leaves. For information on other Leaf and Lawn Cleanup options and techniques, visit [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com) or [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste).

### Mulching

Mulching your lawn involves periodically mowing small amounts of leaves and yard waste, which reduces the need for raking and provides a good source of nutrients to maintain a green and healthy lawn. Shredding the leaves with a mulching mower greatly reduces the volume of leaves and speeds up their decomposition. Raked leaves also make excellent mulch. They can be used to protect roses and other plants over the winter. Adding leaves to your vegetable or flower garden beds in the fall is a great source of nutrients and a soil conditioner. Any leaves that do not break down in winter can be tilled into spring soils.



Leaf and Small Yardwaste Mulching

1. Take leaves and yard waste from your beds and lawn and create pile of trimmings.
2. Set mowing height to maximum, and then slowly go back and forth a few times.
3. Rake into mulch for your lawn, flower beds, garden or for your compost pile.

### Composting

Composting is a simple process that requires little time or effort on the part of homeowners. Compost provides essential nutrients for healthy plant growth. It improves soil structure and helps hold in moisture so you can save money by reducing the amount of water and commercial fertilizers you use on your lawn and garden. Leaves are rich in carbon and useful for balancing nitrogen-rich materials like fresh grass clippings and food waste when you're composting. Stocking your compost piles with leaves in the fall will give you plenty of carbon rich material to balance out your grass clippings in the spring.



Composting Steps

1. Purchase a compost bin at the Fall Compost bin and Rain barrel sale at the Fitchburg recycling drop off site.
2. Select a location for your compost bin.
3. Add good composting materials, such as food waste, leaf and small yard waste, and a small portion of soil.
4. Use your compost for your plants, fertilizers, lawn tops and around trees.

## Yard Waste Collection Bags – available at Fitchburg City Hall

Reusable Yardwaste Polybags (2b in photos) are available at Fitchburg City Hall (for \$2/polybag) during regular hours from 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday, while supplies last. One polybag is available each year at no additional cost to residents who pay the “Refuse & Recycling” special charge on their property tax bill.

Please note that Non-compostable bags must not be tied to allow for emptying yard waste without ripping the bag open. Residents are encouraged to leave a container (with note: “Please place bags in here after emptying.”) for Pellitteri to place the bags in after they are emptied so the bags can be reused again and not sent to the landfill.

All residents may also take yard waste to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site, located at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. The site is open every day during daylight hours. Please visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) for full guidelines or contact Public Works at [publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

## Recycling Facts and Trivia

Three companies that collect recycled goods in this area are Advanced Disposal, Pellitteri, and Waste Management. Their websites offer helpful information about the recycling system, plus tips about what can and cannot be recycled.

- Advanced Disposal created an Education Zone with information ranging from [The Adventures of Eco Man](#) comic strip to the [Material Recovery Facility Diagram](#).
- Pellitteri sorts single stream recyclables at the Kipp Street Station in Madison. Click [here](#) to view a 7-minute video showing what happens to your recyclables.
- Waste Management’s [Think Green Learning Center](#) includes videos and downloads about the latest innovations and best practices

**THE FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC - DID YOU KNOW?**

**1,000 YEARS** IT TAKES ONE PLASTIC BOTTLE UP TO 1,000 YEARS TO DEGRADE IN A LANDFILL

**100K** 100,000 MARINE ANIMALS ARE KILLED EACH YEAR AS A RESULT OF PLASTIC BAG POLLUTION

ENOUGH PLASTIC IS THROWN AWAY EACH YEAR TO CIRCLE THE EARTH FOUR TIMES

1 MIN = 1 MILLION

EVERY MINUTE 1 MILLION PLASTIC BAGS ARE USED. LESS THAN 1% OF PLASTIC BAGS ARE RECYCLED

5 PLASTIC BOTTLES MAKE A POLYESTER T-SHIRT

5 PLASTIC BOTTLES MAKE FIBERFILL FOR A SKI JACKET

*Advanced Disposal - Recycling Facts & Trivia*

### Upcoming Event

Thurs 11/15: Reinventing Power showing  
at Fitchburg Public Library, 6:30pm

Please contact Ellen Geisler, Sustainability Specialist,  
at [ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274  
if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics