

## In This Issue

1. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> Green Thursday Event Features Local Urban Gardening Experts
2. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Madison Bike Winter Ride and Winter Biking Equipment Tips
3. New Recycling Options in 2015: Plastic Bulky Items and Non-Rechargeable Batteries
4. 2015 Solid Waste Collection Calendar and Recycling Guide Available Online
5. Curbside Options for Excess Recyclables
6. Final Holiday Tree Collection Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>
7. Last call: Holiday Light Recycling

### 1. **Fitchburg Green Thursday Event: Urban Gardening, Thursday, Feb. 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Fitchburg Public Library – Room A/B**

Join us on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> to learn about urban gardening and the way that sustainable agriculture programs can strengthen communities, help us reconnect with our food, improve our health, and provide a rewarding, lifelong hobby. Presenters from Fitchburg Fields, Troy Community Garden/Community GroundWorks and others will share information on strategies and workshops that support community and school gardens, creating more resilient cities while trying to overcome our nation's extreme weather and economic challenges.



### 2. **Winter Biking Tips: An Adventure Awaits**

#### **Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Madison Winter Bike Event, Ride from Great Dane to Great Dane**

Join Madison Bike Winter's next social ride this Thursday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Meet at the downtown Great Dane, 123 Doty St., and bike to the Hilldale Great Dane, 357 Price Place.

Sure, winter biking looks cold and slippery, but it's a fun way to get around while getting a great workout at the same time. Here are a few equipment suggestions to get you started.

Sand, salt and grit are hard on suspension and gears. Instead, go with an older bike designated for cold-weather use. Some cyclists ride single speed bikes in the winter or a bike with an internally geared hub since they have fewer moving parts or require less maintenance. No matter the bike, a few "winter additions" can make your ride safe and smooth:



- Add fenders and winter wheels
- Fat tires, wide tires or tires with carbide studs are good investments, increasing grip on snow and ice
- Lubricate your chain and gear cassette often
- Install bright, blinking head- and tail-lights
- Store your bike in a cold place, so the gears and breaks do not freeze up when the cold hits

As for any outdoor winter pursuits, wear lots of layers. Keep in mind, the extra resistance from thicker tires and snow can make for a sweaty ride, so you'll want to be able to add or shed layers as conditions warrant:



**Head:** consider a wind-resistant cover for your helmet with a skull cap underneath or wear a ski helmet on cold days  
**Eyes:** clear ski goggles (the kind with changeable lenses make going from morning to evening commute very convenient)  
**Face:** balaclava or full facemask with a nose vent to avoid fogging your goggles  
**Hands:** lobster-style mittens for cold days, but a variety of insulated, wind-resistant gloves are good for changing temperatures  
**Feet:** Winter boots, not bike shoes, are best for the coldest days. Above 20 degrees, many riders wear bike shoes and neoprene covers to add insulation and wind protection. Some companies sell insulated, winterized bike shoes compatible with clipless pedals.  
**Body:** layers starting with a wicking baselayer, insulation then wind protection. Wind pants and jacket are probably enough protection on most days, but snow pants/ski jackets are great options in extreme cold.  
**Visibility:** bright reflective gear or vest to remain visible at night

Remember that bike paths in Fitchburg are plowed in winter for recreational riders and commuters alike, though the day of a storm and a couple days after are not usually suitable for bicycling while the roads and paths are being cleared. All Metro buses are also equipped with bike racks in case you need an escape from the elements or only want to ride one way.

For more information on winter biking and gear, visit [madbikewinter.org](http://madbikewinter.org) at or stop in Fitchburg Cycles at 2970 Cahill Main, [fitchburgcycles.com](http://fitchburgcycles.com).

### 3. New Recycling Options for 2015: “Plastic Bulky Items” & “Non-Rechargeable Batteries”

Beginning in January, you can recycle large, “Plastic Bulky Items” in a special dumpster at the Recycling Drop Off Site, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Also new in 2015, “Non-Rechargeable Batteries” can now be dropped off in the Fitchburg City Hall Lobby E-Cycling Bin, 5520 Lacy Road. The City Hall Lobby E-Cycling Center also accepts rechargeable batteries, cell phones, empty inkjet/toner print cartridges, eye glasses and hearing aids for recycling. For more details, visit [fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste).

### 4. 2015 Solid Waste Collection Calendar and Recycling Guide Available Online

Visit [fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) for updated recycling and solid waste collection information. The [2015 Solid Waste Collection Calendar](#) and [2015 Recycling Guide](#) are now available.



## 5. Curbside Options for Excess Recyclables



Fitchburg's recycling hauler (Pellitteri Waste Systems) will pick up excess recyclables that do not fit into the blue recycling carts curbside at no additional charge for all single to four-unit residential homes. Homeowners may place excess recyclables in:

- A clear plastic bag or
- A clearly labeled reusable container

Excess cardboard that does not fit inside your blue recycling cart should be broken down and loosely stacked next to the cart (or placed in a clear plastic bag or reusable container). If you do place a reusable container on the curb next to your blue recycling cart, clearly label it so drivers know that you would

like it returned. More information is available at [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste).

## 6. Final Holiday Tree Collection Week of Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>

Holiday tree collection will conclude the week of January 20<sup>th</sup> for single to four-unit residential homes as well as apartments and condominium properties subscribed to City of Fitchburg's "brush collection." January weather is unpredictable and tree collections may be delayed in the case of snow/ice conditions. Trees should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on Monday morning of the collection week.

In case of snow/ice conditions, collections 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 which 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.

## 7. Last Call for Recycling Old Holiday Lights at City Hall

If you find some dead strings of lights while taking down your holiday tree, bring them to Fitchburg City Hall for recycling through January 30, 2015. 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.



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