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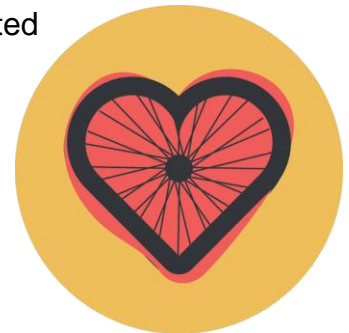
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Show Your Love of Biking with Cycle September

<https://www.lovetoride.net/global/pages/info?locale=en-GB>

May is typically set aside each year as Bike Month, a full month dedicated to celebrating bicycling and encouraging everyone to spend more time on their bike as a form of recreation and transportation. This year, Bike Month would have occurred just as people, businesses, and schools were attempting to respond to a global pandemic and nationwide closures and physical distancing.

So this coming month, Love to Ride is closing out the summer-long National Bike Challenge with Cycle September, promoting cycling throughout the month and offering prize giveaways to participants who register and log miles either individually or as workplaces.



Whether you register on your own or get a group to register together, Cycle September is a great opportunity to further your love of cycling and show it off by racking up points and sharing inspiration or your favorite rides on social media. Logging miles and encouraging other riders to join will earn you points and entries in prize drawings, and you'll enjoy the health benefits of being out on your bike as well!

Madison Bike Week and Free Bikes 4 Kidz

<https://www.madisonbikes.org/events/bikeweek/>
<https://fb4kmadison.org/donate/donate-a-bike/>

Rescheduled from May, this year Madison Bike Week will take place September 12-20 throughout Madison and the surrounding area. Featuring bike stations, participatory rides, discounts, and prize opportunities, don't miss this year's unique distanced bike-week celebration hosted by Madison Bikes and many local organizations!

In conjunction with Madison Bike Week, [Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison](#) will be collecting bikes from September 12-20 to tune up and distribute in 2021 to kids who need a bike to ride. After giving away 1,041 bikes this past winter, FB4K's goal is to collect and give away 2,021 bikes in 2021; help them get a good start on that goal by dropping off a bike at any one of the community locations listed on their website and in this graphic. Locally for Fitchburg residents, bikes can be dropped off at Race Day Events or Delta Beer Labs.



Online Salt Certification Training

From Claudia Guy, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer

We rely on salt to keep our roads safe in the winter and to soften water in our homes year-round but using more salt than is needed comes with a heavy price. In Wisconsin and much of the United States, chloride from salt is infiltrating into our lakes, streams and groundwater. These increased chloride levels have significant impacts on our environment and infrastructure. We can all work together to use the right amount of salt, starting with making sure our applicators are trained to apply the correct amount of salt to get the job done, without over-salting!

Online Salt Certification Trainings:

The City of Madison has created a voluntary Winter Salt Certification Program open to all Dane County contractors. This program educates winter maintenance professionals on the importance of responsible salt use, how to calculate proper application rates based on conditions, and technological advancements (brining, new spreading equipment and alternative products).

All 2020 trainings will be virtual workshops and include an online assessment. Register at www.wisaltwise.com

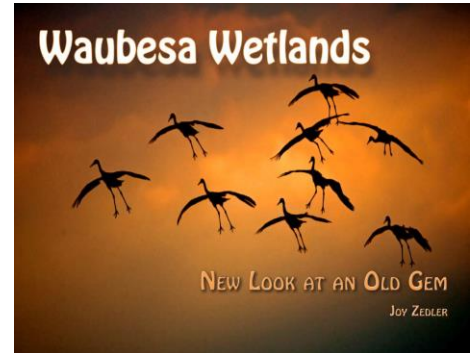
Training dates

- Sep 11th (Parking Lots)
- Oct 2nd (Parking Lots)
- Oct 27th (Parking Lots)
- Oct 28th (Roads)

Waubesa Wetlands: New Look at an Old Gem

<https://town.dunn.wi.us/media/1486/ww2ed.pdf>

In 2018, Joy Zedler—the Aldo Leopold Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin—published a book on the Waubesa Wetlands that provides historical and ecological information on this “extraordinary natural wetland ecosystem [that] exists just down the road.” Collecting significant amounts of information from UW Professor Emeritus Calvin DeWitt, this book is an in-depth exploration of a unique natural resource that was nominated for international recognition as a Ramsar Wetland habitat of special note.



This eBook can be accessed for free from the Town of Dunn’s website at the link above, and a [2-page document](#) is archived on the Fitchburg website, detailing some of the benefits of the Waubesa Wetlands and what we can do to collectively protect them.

Read this eBook and the summary fact sheet, learn about the wetlands just a short drive from your home (and designated a “[wetland gem](#)” by the state of Wisconsin), and then go visit and enjoy this local wetland treasure!

Leaf-Free Streets for Fitchburg!

From Hannah Buscemi, Fitchburg Public Works Intern

The sight of leaves changing color and falling from trees is such a beautiful occurrence to look forward to each fall; however, if not carefully managed, leaves can become harmful to our environment. Leaves contain the nutrient phosphorous, and when phosphorous ends up in our waterways, it can lead to toxic algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen levels, and murky water. It impacts aquatic life that relies on the lake, as well as recreational activities. Did you know that more than half of the phosphorous in urban stormwater runoff comes from leaves in the street?

Not to worry, there are ways you can help! By safely removing leaves from the street before a heavy rain event, we can reduce the amount of phosphorus in stormwater runoff by 80%. Once you have raked your leaves from the street, you have a few options. To be the most “green,” you can utilize leaves and other yard waste for mulching and home composting. Home composting can save time spent bagging yard waste and can improve the health of your lawn soil. In addition, the City of Fitchburg’s Recycling Drop-Off Site (2373 S Fish Hatchery Rd) has a location where Fitchburg residents can bring yard waste, as long as it is not enclosed in a bag or container. Otherwise, the City offers four curbside yard waste collections, two in the spring and two in the fall. To prepare your leaves for curbside pickup, simply place them in a bag or container and place the bag at the curb by 6:30am on the Monday of collection weeks. Be sure to leave the bags untied so workers can easily identify the bag’s contents.

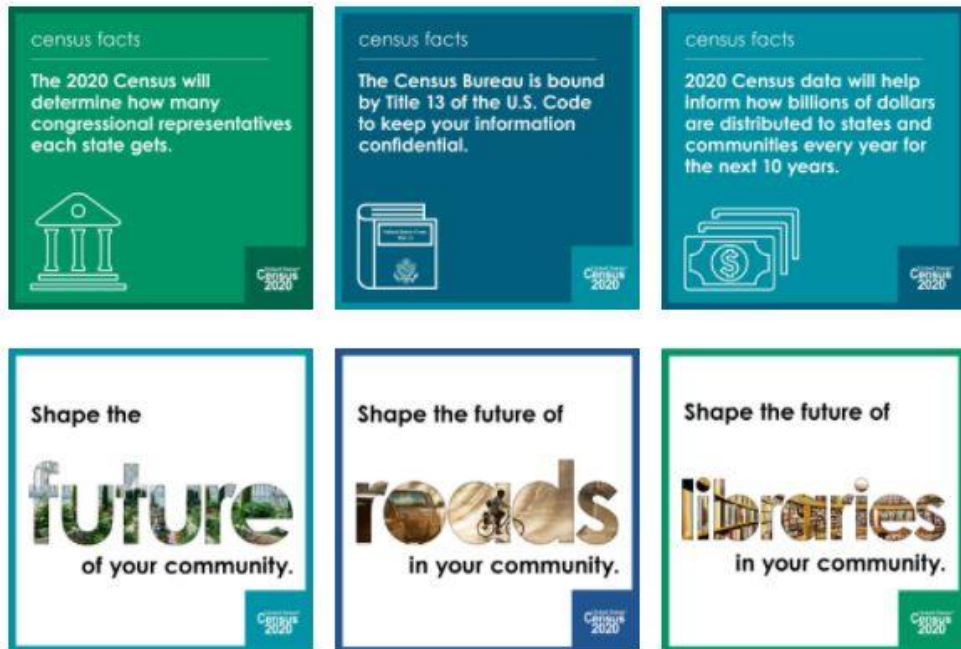
For more information about leaf management and City collection rules, visit <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2568/Brush-Yard-Waste>. If you want to help encourage others to keep leaves out of the street this fall, please request a FREE yard sign by sending an email to Claudia.Guy@fitchburgwi.gov with the subject, “Leaf-Free Streets Sign Request.” Provide your name and address. Thanks in advance for doing your part to keep our streets and water ways clean!

Complete the 2020 Census

<https://www.2020census.gov/>

You have likely noticed by now, we’re in the middle of a year ending in ‘0,’ which means it’s time for all households in America to complete the once-per-decade U.S. Census. The Census is a vitally important public record that gathers data on everyone living in the country (citizens and non-citizens alike), to [help set spending and representation levels](#) for the next ten years.

If you haven’t yet completed the Census, make sure you fill it out soon, and participate in this important part of our democracy!



Rise Up, Midwest!

<https://riseupmidwest.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Rise-Up.pdf>

Fitchburg is proud to announce its new partnership with [Rise Up Midwest!](#) Led by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), *Rise Up Midwest!* is a coalition of businesses, individuals, organizations, jurisdictions, and workforce development partners working in

coordination to create a groundswell of support for commonsense, strategic, and swift policy action and green market development as a response to the pandemic-fueled recession.

We believe in the people of the Midwest and the places we live in and love.

We believe that we need a swift and strategic state and local response to stem a widespread and long-term economic downturn. We believe in the importance of collaboration, public education, bipartisanship, and local and state actions. We believe that the clean energy industry has the capacity to create significant local employment opportunities that contribute to widespread economic recovery. If your business, institution, or jurisdiction agrees with us, we encourage you to learn more and join the coalition. <https://riseupmidwest.org/partners/>



Utilities Pledge Net-Zero Electricity by 2050

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/alliant-energy-to-operate-at-100-net-zero-emissions-by-2050>

Alliant Energy, one of the two utilities providing energy to the City of Fitchburg and its residents and businesses, pledged this July to achieve net-zero electricity production by the year 2050. Net-zero carbon means that all electricity generated by the utility will either come from carbon-free sources or have carbon offsets used to mitigate any emissions that remain.

Alliant joins Madison Gas & Electric, which [pledged in 2019](#) to achieve net-zero electricity by 2050, in pursuing a goal that the [Wisconsin Energy Institute has found](#) to be achievable. In light of Fitchburg's 2019 resolution to source 100% of municipal electricity from renewable sources by 2030, and Dane County's [Climate Action Plan](#) that includes net-zero emissions by 2050, this demonstrates an accelerating commitment to achieving clean energy production throughout southern Wisconsin, an important step in mitigating the most severe impacts of global climate change.

September 26 is National Public Lands Day

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

Since 1994, the National Environmental Education Foundation has sponsored and promoted National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on the fourth Saturday each September. As an opportunity for both volunteer cleanups and general public enjoyment of public lands, NPLD is an

important annual event for helping to foster appreciation of one of the country’s greatest environmental legacies, its public parks.

As in previous years, the National Park Service is making NPLD a fee-free day for visiting national parks nationwide, so this is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy some of Wisconsin’s public lands, whether the NPS-designated Ice Age National Scenic Trail or some of the state’s public lands closer to home.

Other environmental observances in September		
<i>Sept 5</i>	Amazon (rainforest) Day	WWF link
<i>Sept 16</i>	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	UN link
<i>Sept 19</i>	National Cleanup Day	link
<i>Sept 22</i>	World Rhino Day	link
<i>Sept 26</i>	World Tourism Day	UN link
<i>Sept 27</i>	World Rivers Day	link
<i>Sept 21-27</i>	Pollution Prevention Week	EPA link

Solar Opportunities for Non-Profits

<https://www.renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood/>





RENEW Wisconsin has just launched their fall 2020 “Solar for Good” grant cycle, with applications due by October 1st.

Solar for Good grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations in Wisconsin, providing either solar panels or cash to be used towards solar projects for those organizations.

In addition to this grant opportunity, RENEW Wisconsin will be partnering with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to provide a [free webinar on solar projects for nonprofits and schools](#), this Thursday, September 3. The webinar will cover the basics of solar power, economic and environmental benefits of solar power, and opportunities for offsetting the costs of a solar project, focusing especially on public schools but with applicability to other nonprofit organizations as well.

Share the News

Tell your friends to subscribe to Green Fitchburg on the city website
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx> > Green Fitchburg

- a. Visit Fitchburg's "Notify Me®" web page:
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx>
- b. Type your email address in the box and select "Sign In"
- c. To receive text messages enter your phone number and select "Save"
- d. Click  (to subscribe/unsubscribe to emails) and/or  (to subscribe/unsubscribe) next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe / unsubscribe (e.g. "Green Fitchburg" is the mailing list for environmentally friendly suggestions or events)

Please contact Phil Grupe, Sustainability Specialist, at phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

