



WASTEWATER DIVISION

# FITCHBURG DPW WASTEWATER DIVISION *Clean Water News*

Email: [WWNewsletter@Fitchburgma.gov](mailto:WWNewsletter@Fitchburgma.gov)



166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108 • Fitchburg, MA 01420 • TEL: (978) 345 - 9622

## Fall 2018 Issue

### Fitchburg DPW - Wastewater Division's Mission Statement:

The mission of the Fitchburg DPW Wastewater Division is to convey and treat domestic, commercial and industrial wastewater to a level that meets or exceeds water quality limits for the Nashua River as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.



Google Earth

200 ft



## Upcoming Events

**Wastewater on WPKZ's "K-Zone Morning Kommuter":** DPW Wastewater Division's Deputy Commissioner Jeff Murawski will continue appearing on the WPKZ 105.3 FM/1280 AM morning segment with Travis & Sherman, discussing all things wastewater. Listen in on the morning drive on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. .... TUNE IN!

**Community Resource Fair, at Fitchburg Armory** (Fitchburg's Senior Center), from 4:00 P – 7:00 P, on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

**"Statewide STEM Week, 2018":** The Baker/Polito administration declared the week of October 22nd – 26th of 2018 to be a week to raise students' interest and awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Keep an eye out for events during STEM Week in our area that support STEM for Fitchburg's youth.



## *Clean Water News*

In the City's DPW – Wastewater Division, one of the greatest environmental difficulties and challenges we face is the outcome and effects of "non-sewerage" water entering into our sewer collection system, and flowing through the sewer piping system to our wastewater treatment plant (pictured to the left).

This "non-sewerage water" isn't the water that is used in our community's homes, businesses and private institutions.....it is the result of precipitation.....rainfall or springtime snow melt. Precipitation falls from the sky, lands on ground surfaces, or buildings, and it should be soaked up by the soil or ground vegetation, or drain across the ground surface to a wetland area, brook, pond or reservoir. But, too often, this water runs off pavements and buildings, and enters into the sanitary sewer system, when it should be directed to separate stormwater systems, which discharge to stormwater outfalls.

As a result, we are continuing our efforts to remove and redirect this water.....away from the sanitary sewer system....over to the separate storm sewer system.

In the Spring of 2018, DPW – Wastewater Division successfully partnered with Fitchburg Public Schools, Fitchburg DPW-Engineering Division and Worcester Polytechnic Institute to develop STEM teaching curricula tools to help educate Fitchburg children on environmental awareness and stewardship relating to rainfall and how it reaches wetlands, brooks and the Nashua River.

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### Wastewater Business Office Closed:

- **Labor Day** Monday, September 3, 2018
- **Columbus Day** Monday, October 8, 2018
- **Veterans' Day (Observed)** Friday, November 12, 2018
- **Thanksgiving Day & Day After** Thursday, November 22 & Friday, November 23, 2018

# PROMOTING WASTEWATER!

Fitchburg DPW  
Wastewater Division



Numbers you  
should know:

Office No.: 978-345-9622

**SEWER EMERGENCY**  
No.: 978-829-1900

**Hours of Operation**

Business Office:  
7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday  
Sewer Service Hours:  
7:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Monday - Friday

We are continuing our efforts for public education and outreach, by radio, TV, social media, participation in local public events, and in creating outreach publications, such as this quarterly newsletter.

The City of Fitchburg's DPW – Wastewater Division is banding together with several communities' Wastewater Utility Organizations along the Merrimack River (which is downstream of Fitchburg, and the Nashua River) to help in our public outreach and messages communication to the public we serve, to our municipal or regional officials

(Town Managers, Mayors, Selectmen, Aldermen, City Councilors), and to our Massachusetts Statehouse Legislators.

We are continuing partnerships with the Fitchburg Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster, and we are working to develop new partnerships that will help to promote the great work and public services we provide, and to advocate for responsible actions in our community that will help us do our job to protect the environment.

We are one of the City's Departments that will be represented at the September 13th "Community Resource Fair" at the Fitchburg Senior Center (at #14 Wallace Avenue), and we will continue to welcome students classes and other interested visitors (on request) to our East Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide informative and educational tours of our wastewater treatment facility.



## Clean Water News

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This Fall, Fitchburg DPW – Wastewater Division is seeking to engage with our partners to continue advancing STEM for the Fitchburg youth.

Wastewater is helping to champion "green infrastructure" (or "G.I.") implementation within the City. G.I. is a collection of techniques that help keep rainwater onsite, on the properties that that rainfall lands on, and to help infiltrate that rain into the soil, and for select vegetation to help soak up that rain. G.I. helps to prevent that rainwater from running off properties, getting into streets and into either the sanitary sewer system or the storm drainage system.

Along these lines, Wastewater will be meeting with partner organizations and City Departments to seek out opportunities to implement G.I. best management practices (such as rain gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, planter boxes, bioswales and permeable pavement areas....to name a few), where these installations can be an in-the-field "learning laboratory" that supports STEM educational curricula on stormwater, wastewater, and environmental resources protection.

As always, we welcome input, feedback, questions, or comments from the public, to help shape the content to make our newsletter the best it can be.

Please reach out to us by email ([WWNewsletter@Fitchburgma.gov](mailto:WWNewsletter@Fitchburgma.gov)), or by telephone to our Wastewater Administration Offices at: (978) 345 – 9622.

We will address feedback and inquiries we receive, in subsequent quarterly issues of "Clean Water News".

Sincerely,

Jeff Murawski , DPW Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater



Residents are encouraged to use the City's issues reporting program, "SeeClickFix" to report issues to the City. This is a free to download application, from iTunes or Google Play Store.

