



Summertime and the living is Green

The sun is shining on Will County as we watch the growth of solar on roof tops and farm fields, as we share books at the annual reuse and recycling event and certainly as we take on the challenge of reducing single-use plastic straws. You may be relaxing by some water, or tending to your garden, perhaps you are packing up some hazardous items for the June collection - regardless of the circumstance, we are challenging you to see if you can enjoy a cool drink without the straw this summer season!

[Visit Our Website](#)

First Weekend in June: Book Event

Thousands of books are available FREE of charge at the County's annual Three-Day Book Reuse & Recycling Event. Everyone is invited to bring the books they no longer want, perhaps they are children's books, text books, books you'll simply never re-read or you need the shelf space. Whatever the reason, bring your books to **Pilcher Park in Joliet on June 1, 2 or 3** and while there, pick up some books! Libraries and schools across the County donate books to this effort. Enter from Gougar. **Join us from 9am to 4pm Friday, Saturday or Sunday!** Whatever isn't taken, is recycled.



Make an Appointment for an Electronic and HHW Event

Our third Electronic and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held in Mokena on Saturday, June 23. The events in Peotone and Joliet were very successful with the appointment system making wait times less than 5 minutes for all participants! Please click our link below to make an appointment for the next event!

[Mokena on Saturday, June 23](#)

New Lenox on Saturday, September 8

Homer Glen on a Saturday to-be-determined

(these Fall event links will activate this summer)



Get Rebates for becoming Energy Efficient

Looking to install energy efficiency measures and receive ComEd or Nicor rebates? New Illinois laws require that installers for certain projects be certified through the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). These projects include ComEd & Nicor's New Construction Program and larger incentive projects for private and public sector customers. Want to know if your installer is a Certified Energy Efficiency Measure Installer? Search by the installer's name in the ICC utility database: <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/utility/>



Appreciate the Opossum or Possum

These "monkeys" may look scary when they bare their teeth, but actually they are easily frightened, and often play "dead" to avoid injury. They are wonderful at keeping tick populations down because they eat them, along with other small animals, insects, slugs and roadkill. They are incapable of getting rabies so they are not a threat but actually a very valuable visitor to your yard!



Solar Farms Strengthen the Will County Energy Grid

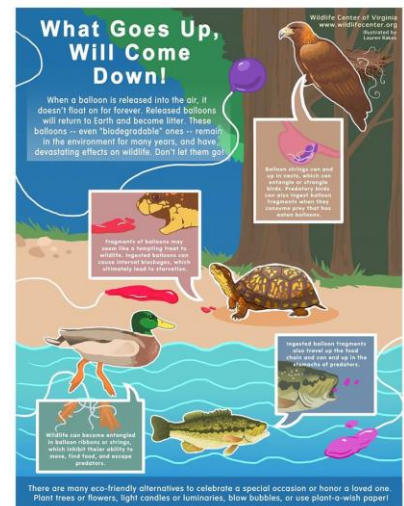
Will County Board Members approved three more solar farm developments in May. Each of the solar farms are located in Washington or Manhattan townships and will be 2 MW and take up about 20 acres, producing enough energy to power nearly 200 homes a year. These solar farms bring the total solar farm count in Will County to four with several more applications awaiting public hearing.



Balloon Releases are Harmful Pollution

While many of us enjoy balloons at celebrations, we should never intentionally allow them to blow "away." While they may softly float through the air, the truth is they eventually land. They get caught on tree branches, fall in fields, rivers, lakes and reach oceans. Along the way, they are mistaken as food by birds and fish. They may entangle wildlife in strings. They are often ingested, leading to blockages and starvation in fish, birds and animals. Despite their attractive appearance, releasing them is no different than littering, which is prohibited in every jurisdiction.

If you are involved in a group or organization that is considering a balloon release, offer alternatives, such as a balloon drop, a tree planting, a memorial garden or bench.



Summer Drink Challenge: Avoid Single-Use Straws

Whenever you receive a glass of ice water, a beverage of nearly any kind, it is common to receive a plastic single-use straw. The straw is used for minutes, but lasts in the environment for centuries. Want to make a difference?

Take this summer challenge:

Don't take a straw! Ask your waiter to keep the straw!

If you are really enthusiastic, ask your friends and family to join your effort. Make it a competition.

If you must use a straw (especially when driving with a cold drink) consider investing in an alternative!

DITCH Single-Use STRAWS



No Straw



Metal Straw
(washable)



Bamboo
(renewable)



Paper
(compostable)

A New Approach to Food Pantry Delivery

Have you noticed one of the 18 Micro Food Pantries in and around Will County? These small pantries offer residents a way to give away food to those in need and anonymous access to food for the hungry among us. The idea is the brainchild of Jeff Eberhard of E-Z Auto Sales, for people that may be too proud to go or simply afraid to go to one of the local "full-service" food pantries. Recently, one was installed at the the Will County Health Department. This gives gardeners a way to drop off excess produce, non-perishable foods and basics such as diapers or feminine products. It may reduce food waste while, at the same time, filling a need in our community. A full list of all the locations is at <https://www.facebook.com/MicroPantries/>



49 Schools Earn Earth Flags

Once again Will County celebrated the many schools that participated in the Earth Flag program. This FREE program is available to all schools serving Will County students and involves taking action to recycle, reduce waste, and learn more from our Environmental Educator. The program includes the offer a free worm bin to try composting in a classroom for any teacher that has an interest. The program also promotes joining a Terracycle Brigade to collect unique items that may not be collected elsewhere. Lastly, many schools collect plastic bags and compete to win bird feeders and benches made from recycled plastic film from Trex.



Growing Community Gardens

The We WILL Grow School and Community Garden Program welcomes Faith Movers Church located at 425 Exchange Street in University Park to the local agriculture scene. The new garden will provide clients of the Faith Movers Church Food Pantry fresh fruits and vegetables. University Park is located in a food desert and the eastern part of Will County has only two pantries that partner with Northern Illinois Food Bank to meet the area need. The project educates while assisting others.



Guard and Discard Drugs

Pain medication addiction leads to illegal drug use. It is important to only take what you need, store it safely and when you are finished with it, discard it properly. While the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency offers two one-day collections through police departments, Will County offers dozens of locations to return unwanted medications year round. Residents are welcome to turn in any medications they no longer need. This keeps the medications out of the water (never flush), out of the garbage and prevents misuse including accidentally taking medications that are out-of-date.



Green Drinks for June - Future of the Joliet Prison

Learn more about the possible future of the Joliet Prison on **Wednesday, June 13th, 6-8pm** at the Joliet Area Historical Museum, 204 Ottawa St., in Joliet. Made famous in The Blues Brothers, the Joliet Prison has been one of the defining features of the Joliet landscape. Join museum executive director Greg Peerbolte and Joe Roth as they discuss the future of the site with its incorporation into the wider open space/cultural/recreational plan and effort called the Heritage Park Plan that includes Historic Route 66 and the I&M Canal Corridor. This event is free.



Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!

MEMBER
Will County Green Business Program

willcountygreen.com
GREEN Business



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual Tour
Tour Recycling Sites



EV Charging

pace
RIDESHARE

Commuter Options



Community and School
Garden Program



Farmer's Markets and
Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

Book Reuse & Recycling Weekend
Pilcher Park Nature Center
Joliet
Fri, Sat, Sun
June 1, 2, 3
9am - 4pm

Green Drinks
Topic:
Future of Joliet Prison
Wednesday
June 13
6pm - 8pm
Joliet Historic Museum

Electronics & Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Mokena
Saturday
June 23
8am - 3pm
By Appointment Only

Really, Really FREE Market
Plainfield
Saturday
August 4
10am - 3pm



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy
815-727-8834 | info@willcountygreen.com | www.WillCountyGreen.com

STAY CONNECTED:

