

**Featured  
Green Tip**



**Bike to Work**

Biking to work is not something everyone can do but for those that are able, it can be a healthy, financially beneficial and environmental great choice! One of the Will County employees from the Auditor's office is dedicated to biking and offered the following:

"My name is Gloria Martinez, and am very excited to say that I have been riding to work since July 2 of this year. This was a big change for me, but with the support of family, friends and my office co-workers it became a reality. I researched the safest (not the busiest) route to take to work. I also had some maintenance work

**Shred at Park Forest**

Will County is partnering with the Village of Park Forest to offer residents a document destruction event on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9am to 11am at the Farmer's Market area, near the intersection of Cunningham and Liberty. There is a limit of 2 boxes per person and only paper that is considered confidential should be shredded. All shredded paper will be recycled.



**Sharefest brings the Community Together!**

*Saturday, September 14, 8am-3pm  
Spencer School, 1711 Spencer Road*

Since 2007 Will County has been working with a very dedicated group of volunteers to assist with an extremely unique and amazingly widespread community event, known as **New Lenox Sharefest**. This event encompasses recycling, litter clean up, food drives, clothing reuse, health care, wellness tips and safety issues. While some people may choose to give blood, others are giving clothes, books, shoes, non-perishable food, or they are seeing a medical professional for dental care, blood pressure checks, and cholesterol screenings. Many volunteers and participants bring items to be recycled!



Will County, with funding assistance from New Lenox Township, offers a **Household Hazardous and Motor Oil Collection** Event. A wide variety of chemicals used for the lawn, garden, home repair, cleaning, and auto maintenance are accepted. Additional recycling opportunities are provided by Vintage Tech for **Electronics**, DART for **foam plastic**(think meat trays and Styrofoam cups), and All American Recycling, which provides

done on my 17 year plus bike; new tires so that I did not get a flat, new seat to ease the trip and then purchased an item every couple of weeks. (mirrors, basket, horn) to increase my comfort and safety. Riding my bike one way is 5.4 miles for a 10.8 mile daily total. Besides the savings in gas and car maintenance, it feels good to just ride to become healthier.

Eventually, I would like to recruit co-workers, friends and family, but no takers at this time. I know this is not feasible for everyone due to the distance and accessibility of bike paths or safety. It would be a great to have a parking location for vehicles so that individuals would be able to bike to work at least part of the way.(just like commuting in vehicles with other persons from work)."

Will County's Green website has a page about biking and mass transit. Some employers offer shower and locker facilities to employees, to make walking and biking easier. If you bicycle to work or know an employer that encourages it, let us know! We'll give them a shout-out on our Facebook and Twitter, and maybe, even highlight them in a newsletter or on [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)

a **scrap metal** dumpster for unwanted metal that isn't taken curbside, such as hangers, bent nails, car parts, pipes, broken wrenches, and more. All the proceeds from the scrap are donated to Sharefest. K Hoving, began offering **wood** recycling last year (which includes plain, painted and treated lumber wood and scraps), and this year with funds from Will County, is adding **carpet and padding** recycling.

In addition, Sharefest works with Goodwill and USAgain to offer clothing and household item reuse opportunities. Do you need kids clothes, some shirts to wear while painting, something formal? All types and sizes are donated and put out for the taking, without any fee. Whatever remains at the end of the day is donated for others to reuse and items that can't be reused are recycled.

Any funds raised through donations at this event are used by Sharefest volunteers to do small repairs for residents with limited resources or suffering disabilities. Please visit the Sharefest website for more information on all of the above and much, much more at [www.sharefestnewlenox.com](http://www.sharefestnewlenox.com)

## ReUse Items - Donate



Reusing products saves more resources and energy than recycling but often this option is forgotten. Sharefest is offering an opportunity to donate items needed by our troops serving overseas. Some of the items are food such as canned soup, coffee, drink boxes/pouches, protein and granola bars, jerky or slim jims. Other items include soap, body wash, washcloths, shampoo. If you have these items, a special table will be set aside at Sharefest where volunteers will accept them, sort, package and mail them to our troops.

## Donate to the Animals

Blankets and towels are always needed by animal care organizations. Leashes, cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent, Dawn detergent, hand sanitizer, paper towels, large garbage bags, spray bottles, and more are always welcome but a special area will be available at Sharefest for the PAWS organization to accept items. They will also offer nail clipping and grooming for a small fee for your current



## Save the Date

### September 7 Park Forest Shredding Event



One-Day Event

Document Destruction  
Event - 2 Box Limit  
at the Farmer's Market

Cunningham Dr. & Liberty  
Dr.

Park Forest

Saturday, Sept. 7  
9:00 -11:00am

### September 14 Sharefest



One-Day Collection  
Household Hazardous  
Waste,

pets and have adoptable pets available for you to meet. Share your home and your heart with a pet and donate any spare items for those in need of loving homes.

## Back to School with Recycled Products!

It's that time of year again, with children going back to school and college students going back to classes. It is a time for purchasing supplies and necessities and, a great time to look for recycled content products.



Notebooks abound made of 20% and more recycled content. Pencils and pens are also readily available made partially of recycled content. Pencil cases can be made by crafty adults from used fabrics or small boxes. Tissues are usually sold in boxes made out of recycled paperboard (just as many cereal boxes are made).

Back to school clothes can be purchased brand new or resources can be saved by shopping at thrift and resale shops. Often small children outgrow clothes before they show any signs of use while older students may like "retro" looks.

For those with calculators on the list, purchase a solar powered one and for those with computers on the list, consider a solar powered recharger to go with whatever model you choose.

## Save Money on Fuel

The buck stops here, at the gas station, every time the car needs refueled. There are many ways to make fuel last longer, saving you time and money!



1) Properly inflate your tires. Sounds simple but most people forget about it. Don't wait until the next oil change, check your tires with a tire gauge every week or two and then put some air in them if needed. (BONUS - your tires last longer saving you money and conserving resources)

Electronics,  
Foam Plastic,  
Wood,  
Carpeting & Padding,  
Clothing,  
Eye Glasses  
and more  
at Spencer School 1333  
E. Seventh St  
New Lenox  
Saturday, Sept. 14  
8:00am -3:00pm



## September 28 Green Apple Day

Recycle Electronics,  
Textiles and Foam  
Plastic then take a tour  
of a School Edible  
Garden, see green  
exhibits at John Tibbott  
School  
Bolingbrook  
9am-2pm

Join Our Mailing List!



August 2013

2) You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2% by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Using the wrong grade of motor oil can lower your gas mileage. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

3) Accelerate slower at stop signs and red lights. Flooring your engine wastes fuel and usually isn't necessary or time saving. Change your air filter to improve acceleration.

4) Keep your engine tuned properly. Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4%. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40%!

5) As highway speed limits increase, keep in mind the cost of driving fast. Mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 50 mph. You can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 50 mph is like paying an additional \$0.25 per gallon for gas. Keep your speed lower on rural roads and city streets.

6) Use Cruise Control. Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save fuel.

7) Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds could reduce your MPG by up to 2% based on the size of your vehicle.

8) Limit idling. Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner (AC) use. Turn off your engine when your vehicle is parked. It only takes a few seconds worth of fuel to restart your vehicle. Don't idle in school zones as it adds to air pollution and children will breathe the pollutants.

9) Do several errands in one trip to save time and money. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.



10) When purchasing your next vehicle consider one with better fuel economy. The cost of gasoline and diesel is only expected to rise.

### Reminder: Get Caught being Green

Last month we encouraged our readers to send us something about themselves or their employer. The Bike to Work story in the left column is the result of one such submission. We encourage you to give it a try. Let us know about something you or your employer does that is "green." Perhaps you set up an anti-idling zone at your school, started shopping at a farmer's market, joined a carpool a few days a week or simply share this newsletter with friends or co-workers. We may feature you or your organization in an article or on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Inspire others, share your efforts! Send an email to: [recycling@willcountygreen.com](mailto:recycling@willcountygreen.com)

See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)