



### Featured Green Tip



#### Medication Take-Back

Since 2007 Will County has partnered with the Illinois EPA, pharmacies and police departments to offer year-round medication take-back opportunities. If you have prescription or over-the-counter medications, syrups, or lotions that are expired or no longer needed, then bring them for proper disposal.

While Household Hazardous Collection programs, such as one-day events from the County and the permanent HHW site we help fund in Naperville, have always accepted medication, the Illinois EPA challenged communities to do more. The USGS found 80% of freshwater tested across the nation to have some levels of

## Get a Home Energy Audit

*List Efficiency on MLS when selling*

In June the first home in Will County and sixth home in Illinois received its Silver Certificate from the Illinois

Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The home owners utilized the Illinois Home Performance Program, receiving a free energy audit from Green Energy Improvement, then choosing which improvements fit their budget and having them completed. They chose:

- Air Sealing in the Attic, Basement and Perimeter Walls
- Insulation on the Attic Floor
- Insulation in the Basement

These improvements reduced air leakage in the home 35% and are expected to save the owners an estimated \$238 annually. The home's Silver Certificate and Rating is allowed to be listed on the Multiple Listing Service if they ever wish to sell. The Certificate was presented to Georgene Jaback and Bob Woods by Joliet Mayor, Thomas Giarrante and County Executive, Larry Walsh.



## Green Challenge!

Will County has joined the Federal Dept. of Energy's Better Building Challenge (BBC). The county has committed to reduce energy use by 20% by 2020 (using 2009 energy use as the benchmark). This goal covers many, but not all, county owned buildings. The goal is expected to be achieved through implementation of:

- Energy Management Procedures
- Employee Green Team Actions
- Education
- Energy Audits
- Energy efficient Retrofits where they make the most impact



medication. The police were also experiencing an increase in teens illegally taking medications, often pilfered from parents and relatives' cabinets.

Over the past five years, we have established 20 new locations for residents to dispose of unwanted medications. While narcotics can only be taken at participating police stations, the majority of pills and other meds are accepted at partnering pharmacies.



**Bolingbrook Pharmacy**  
**Basinger's**  
**Doc's Drugs**

**Crest Hill Police**  
**Joliet Police**  
**Lemont Police**  
**Lockport Police**  
**Mokena Police**  
**New Lenox Police**  
**Peotone Police**  
**Plainfield Police**

Please check the website for address locations and hours of operation. Most police departments offer a 24/7 drop box in their lobby for easy use.

The BBC also involves challenging businesses to reduce energy consumption. Will County will be working with businesses through its Green Business Program to achieve BBC goals. Will County will use software that is available to many commercial businesses through the US EPA, known as the Energy Portfolio Manager to track energy usage. The County's commitment is for over 500,000 sq. ft. and improvements have begun with the County Sunny Hill Nursing Home. This 24/7 operation is receiving a reflective roof that will boost the insulation value as well as reduce cooling costs. More information is available on various building projects at [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com) under the Initiatives title.

## Summer Time - Living Easy



The warm weather arrived early this past spring and with it came yard work. However, with the heat of summer, there are some tips on ways to relax, and enjoy the yard while conserving resources.

First, **mow grass at 4 inches, cutting it to 2 inches.** Leave the clippings on the lawn and allow the grass to naturally grow a deeper root system while shading the soil to retain moisture on hot dry days.

If you must rake or collect clippings, forget yard bags and opt to toss it all in a **compost** bin (a variety are available at garden shops). Grass is full of nitrogen, if you allow it to compost with some brush scraps and old leaves, it makes a nutrient rich material called humus. This can be spread on gardens, flower beds, under bushes or on hanging plants as a natural fertilizer.

Lastly, **avoid watering** as much as possible. If you must, purchase a recycled rubber soaker hose. These are simple to operate without any mess. Turn on the faucet in the early morning or late afternoon, wait 20-30 minutes. for the water to drip directly on the soil where the hose is laid, and then turn it off. Eliminates evaporation, watering sidewalks, muddy grass and the fatigue of sprinkling by hand. Very easy!

## Play a Game with Us

There are four games on the county's green website for children and adults to enjoy. They offer information in a fun and competitive way. If you sign up as a member, you can earn points for prizes and compete against yourself!



**Needles are NOT accepted.** Needles, or sharps (as they are also called), that are used in the home for self-injection (such as insulin shots) are currently permissible to discard with regular garbage using a rigid container (such as a milk jug, coffee container or laundry bottle) sealed with duct tape.

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There is a fast-paced clean up in a park, a memory game with a twist, a game to test your ability to spot differences and a timed word game. Test your knowledge - as a subscriber to this newsletter you may be an expert, or you could learn something brand new! Either way, don't keep it to yourself, share the game and our website with your friends.

## ReUse: Better than Recycling

Buying antique furniture can be good for your wallet and for the environment. Often modern furniture isn't made the way it was once crafted. There is often less solid wood, hand crafted furniture available. Many wood furniture items are made with pressed wood, or wood shavings pressed into solid planks of wood. Pine, a soft wood that grows quickly, is more commonly used today. Antique furniture is often made from solid woods such as oak, maple, and mahogany.



When looking at items that appear worse for wear, remember that wood can often be stripped and refinished to like new condition. In addition, drawers and sides of old pieces may last far longer because artisans constructed many pieces with dovetail joints and wooden dowels rather than glue and nails.

Throughout Will County there are dozens of antique furniture stores. The next time you drive past one, consider stopping in to browse the selections. This newsletter often reminds readers that reusing items saves more energy than recycling. In this case, antique furniture buying can support the local economy, save you money, and add value all at the same time.

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