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Make everyday Earth Day - Green your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy

Giving Thanks for Green Options

We have so much to be thankful for, from family and friends to festive holidays on the horizon. We also have a variety of opportunities to green our lives in fun ways. The first Saturday of November has become a Pumpkin Collection Day across much of Illinois, with three events right here in Will County. Our longest running event includes shredding and Electronics collection for reuse and recycling. America Recycles Day includes an invitation to bring your questions to a presentation and we suggest several ways to save energy or use clean energy; plus a chance to test our waterways! Take a minute to take our survey on alternative fuel and answer one question on Bottle deposits. We want to hear from you!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Take 3: Pumpkin Event 11/4

Free family fun at Lewis University again this year as they partner with us to offer Pumpkin Catapulting with the Physics Club. The Sustainability Club provides volunteers to assist with unloading vehicles and our very own school educator will be offering compost instructions. A shred truck will be available for up to 3 banker boxes of confidential documents and be sure to bring the broken and unwanted electronics to our recycler. The entire event is being held from 9am to Noon in Parking Lot W, just south of the main entrance at Lewis University.

Join us on Saturday, November 4, 2023
9am to Noon at Lewis University

Will County is offering all residents FREE

- Electronics Recycling (2 TV limit)
- Confidential Document Shredding (3 box limit)
- Pumpkin Catapult for Compost (thanks to Lewis Physics Students)
- Composting Education Table

1 University Parkway, Romeoville - follow signs to parking lot

We are accepting naked pumpkins and gourds only. Paint is allowed but no plastic eyes, candles or other decoration. All pumpkins are composted at Christiansen Farms in Peotone.

Survey on Alternative Fuels

The County is in the midst of developing Illinois' first countywide alternative fuels readiness plan! This plan will evaluate the future infrastructure needs for electric vehicles and other alternative fuel vehicles (e.g., hydrogen, biodiesel, ethanol, and compressed natural gas). As a resident, your input will help identify when and where charging stations, fueling infrastructure, and other investments will be needed in Will County to support you as well as visitors and businesses. These alternative fuels are expected to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that contribute to Climate Change and breathing problems, including rates of asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, along with COPD. Reducing gasoline and diesel fuel use by adopting new fuels is creating a need for a plan to address the refueling infrastructure needs.



Take our survey at www.willcountyaltfuels.com click "Take the Survey" at the top of the page.

Curbside Recycling & HHW 11/8

Will County's Recycling Specialist, Marta Keane, past president of the Illinois Recycling Foundation and recent winner of a statewide recycling award, shall be in New Lenox on November 8 to answer your questions about recycling. Over the past two decades the curbside recycling programs have evolved, along with more materials being taken at special drop-off locations than ever before. Beyond that, people find themselves with chemicals, poisons and other toxic items that are not allowed in the garbage. These are known as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and options are increasing for service. Residents are invited to bring photos of items they find confusing. We will discuss pizza boxes, caps, packaging, batteries, motor oil, medication, and much, much more!



Free - All Residents Welcome
New Lenox Village Hall
 Nov 8 at 7pm

Litter and Virgil Kemp

Litter is a universal problem with negative impacts that reach far beyond the community of origin. It not only decreases the aesthetic appeal of communities, which depresses business and local property values, but litter also travels via wind and water to pollute critical waterways and ecosystems. Stormwater systems carry the litter, exacerbating the problem. As a result, local and state governments and communities across the country continue to invest in surveys, cleanups, and litter-reducing technologies in an attempt to reduce these negative impacts.

Virgil Kemp believed all of us play a role and bear responsibility for litter. He moved to Joliet in 2009 and founded **Helpers of Mother Earth**, with the mission of partnership to address litter. He organized weekly clean ups in the Spring and Fall with communities, churches, youth groups,



Helpers of Mother Earth founder, Virgil Kemp shown leading a group litter pick-up



Virgil Kemp assisted in organizing many Fairmont Community Clean-Ups and he consistently demonstrated how to engage community members and

Joliet Job Corp., universities, Park Districts, the Forest Preserve, Joliet Junior College, and more. When he was not getting others to help, he cleaned up on his own as he walked daily throughout the city. Virgil touched more lives and changed more communities than anyone will ever know. Virgil Kemp passed in September of this year but he will be remembered by those that knew him as one of the great selfless souls that strived to make our world a better place each day.

partners to assist with cleanups throughout Will County.



Electric Mowers over Gasoline

Make the switch to an electric mower. “To put it in more basic terms, one hour of mowing your lawn with a gas-powered mower produces the same amount of air pollution as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver,” according to Clean Technica. High levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides enter the atmosphere with the use of gas mowers. The EPA also says that Americans spill 17 million gallons of gas every year while refueling their equipment — more than was famously spilled by the ExxonMobil Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska. Gas mowers appear to be on the way out, with electricity-powered lawn care equipment replacing it. John Deere recently started working with a battery-powered lawn equipment supplier, and the Home Depot recently announced that 85% of the outdoor lawn equipment it sells will be electric by 2028.



Sustainability Investments

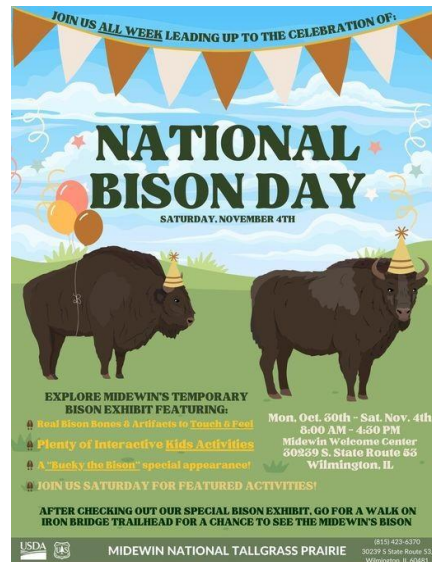
Businesses in Will County can enjoy substantial financial incentives for clean energy adoption. Some Will County areas qualify for an additional 10% federal investment tax credit (ITC) on top of the base 30% ITC (40% for U.S. made equipment). In addition, Illinois provides rebates for solar and battery storage. In total these incentives can cover 50-80% of the turn-key cost of the systems. Several local companies have already installed solar and battery systems, including G&W Electric and Magid Glove & Safety. Illinois-based Intelligent Generation helped these companies maximize the benefits, optimizing solar+storage projects for enhanced savings. Find out more at intelgen.com.



Additional information on timeline and labor requirements is available on the Dept of Energy website.

Celebrate our Bison on Nov 4

After catapulting your pumpkin, be sure to visit Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to see their short-term Bison Exhibit. It opened Oct. 30 and runs through Nov. 4 from 8am to 4:30pm each day! There are activities for children and adults. You should also take the opportunity to walk some of the area. The Ironbridge trail may have some bison to see in person. Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is part of the former Joliet Arsenal site and is operated by the USDA. It is the largest Tallgrass Prairie in North America with walking and biking trails that invite visitors to see native plants and wildlife throughout the year.



Just off Rt. 53 in Wilmington

Pumpkin Launch in Plainfield

Plainfield Township wants local families to participate in their first Pumpkin Collection for Composting. They are offering children and adults a fun way to toss pumpkins into collection containers on **Saturday, November 4 from 9am to Noon**. If you live in the Plainfield area and have a pumpkin or gourd you want to compost in an entertaining fashion, please be sure to stop in at the Township building!



22525 W Lockport St
Plainfield, IL, 60544

America Recycles Day

November 15 is America Recycles Day and unlike Earth Day when we celebrate all things environmental, this day was set aside to remind us to Recycle and support recycling efforts by Buying Recycled Content items. From newspapers and tissue boxes, to carpeting and pop cans, recycled content items are all around us. They are just as high quality and dependable as their non-recycled content competition and usually priced similarly. For companies that buy in bulk, there is not a price difference.



Input on Bottle Deposit/Refund

We want to know your opinion on paying a deposit when you purchase any beverage in Illinois. Nearly every year a bottle bill is introduced that is envisioned to increase recycling and decrease litter but it seldom makes progress. Our recycling sorting facilities base costs on the material they receive and market. If aluminum and tin cans and plastic pop bottles and milk jugs decreased, they would need to raise rates on collection to all the homes. This bill is different, as envisions paying them some of the return rate. Government is worried that



Click to see [HB 4205](#)

Take our quick one-question [survey](#) by visiting our website and answering it on the bottom of right column.

it will still hurt residents as 10% to 40% of deposits are never collected in other states and economically disadvantaged people may have difficulty returning containers. What do you think? Take our survey!

Pumpkin Fun at Plum Creek Nature Center

While the Forest Preserve discourages dumping pumpkins in their preserves, they do encourage families to visit the Plum Creek Nature Center on **Saturday, Nov. 4 from 11am. to 3pm** to pound your pumpkin to a pulp, roll them into a heap or drop them over a railing. All the pumpkins will be placed in a compost bin to become fertilizer. Last year, the Nature Center collect 988 lbs of pumpkins and this year they are hoping for more!



27064 Dutton Rd
Beecher, IL 60401

Fall Launch for Solar Switch

If you are curious about powering your home with solar but do not know where to start, consider joining the fall edition of Solar Switch, an education and group buying program offered by the Citizens Utility Board of Illinois (CUB), Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), Will County, and neighboring Counties. Opening this November, the program aims to inform Will County residents and small businesses on local solar accessibility and consumer protections through free information sessions. Registrants may also band together and use their bulk purchasing power to save thousands of dollars on solar and battery storage installations from trusted contractors. Please visit SolarSwitch.com/WillCounty to register before auction day on December 12.



Visit
SolarSwitch.com/WillCounty
to register before December 12

Donate Cans to Habitat

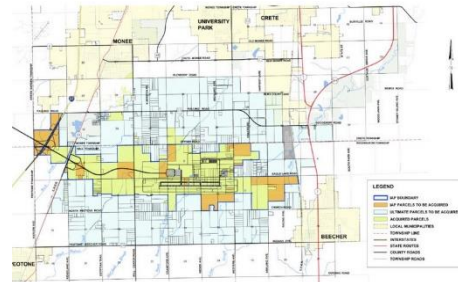
The non-profit, Habitat for Humanity, helps struggling people build their own homes alongside volunteers, and aids them in attaining an affordable mortgage. The Joliet ReStore is part of Habitat for Humanity and is competing in a grant opportunity based on aluminum can collection! Normally they accept donations of home building items, then sell them to the public at a lower price than new materials. If you haven't been inside a ReStore, you should check it out. There are two remaining days for you to show support by donating crushed cans at their site at 1395 N. Larkin, Joliet.



Can Collection dates & times are:
Friday, Nov 17 9am - 5pm
Saturday, Nov 18 9am - 10am
Crushed cans are the preference for transportation purposes.

Alternative Plan for Peotone

For many years there has been a plan for a third Chicago area airport in Peotone. To date, while the state purchased many acres, no business has stepped up to submit a development plan. County Board Chair Judy Ogalla recently submitted a letter to the Sun Times editor calling for utilizing the rich farmland as a "renewable resource that can produce economic, environmental, and social benefits for generations." The Board heard presentations recently from the Farm Foundation and Chicago Wilderness Ag Committee to add farming infrastructure needed to support a switch from animal feed corn and soy to foods for human consumption. Small farms growing groceries require different infrastructure to reach market and the land that was set aside for a possible third airport could provide such a foundation, along with growing the everyday foods. A Town Hall meeting is scheduled in Monee on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7pm. If you are interested, please plan to attend the meeting at Monee Village Hall.



2014 IDOT Masterplan for Peotone Airport

WILL COUNTY TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, November 16th, 2023, 7 pm CST

ALL ARE INVITED! PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND ATTEND

Will County has some of the finest farmland in the world. In this county we produce everything from corn and soy to pumpkins and hemp. Sadly, the farmland that produces so much value for us is also the second most endangered farmland in the US, according to a recent report from the American Farmland Trust. The land is endangered from a variety of factors including inland port growth and urban sprawl, driven by the idea that farmland is just land waiting to be developed. **While development is important and necessary, we should also consider a different path that embraces a new agricultural future for Will County.**

Questions we will discuss include:

- How can we build a more equitable local agricultural economy driven by both traditional farming and new, sustainable technologies/approaches that adapt to climate change and consumer preferences?
- How can land that is currently set aside for development projects be employed to build this new agricultural economy?
- How can farms of all sizes and approaches take part in this new approach?

We have some ideas, but we need your input. Please join us for a very important community discussion.

WHAT: An Open to The Public Forum Discussion -- We need to hear your voice!

SUBJECT: Will County's Agricultural Future

WHEN: Thursday, November 16th, 2023, 7 pm CST

WHERE: Monee Village Hall: 5130 Court Street Monee, IL 60449

WHO: All Will County residents. The conversation will be led by local residents and stakeholders.



Assist in Water Monitoring

The Conservation Foundation (TCF) is concerned with our waterways and has been encouraging communities to use less salt on our roadways, with some success, including a few trying beet juice! They need volunteer monitors to collect chloride data from smaller streams and ponds once a month from November through May. TCF hopes to learn more about salt in our waterways. They are offering training sessions to anyone willing to take on the outdoor sampling adventure. Visit their [website for more information](#), including in-person and virtual training session options!



Training sessions:
November 8th: 7pm-8:30pm in Joliet
November 14th: 7pm-8:30pm Virtual
December 6th: 7pm-8:30pm Virtual

Facebook: Questions & Answers

A recent post about recycling foil wrappers received some extra attention with thousands of views and a few questions. The one many seem to have is how clean does used aluminum foil need to be? As clean as possible is always best. Aluminum, glass, and steel go into 3,000 degree Fahrenheit furnaces to be melted, therefore small amounts of food residue and paper labels are burned off. However, plastic containers melt at standard oven temps, and must be wiped clean. Try to avoid wasting water cleaning items. Wipe with a dirty napkin. Roll small foil candy wrappers into a larger ball.



Upcoming Events

Nov 4: Take 3 - Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville

Nov 4: Pumpkin Collection in Plainfield
Nov 4: Pumpkin Smash in Plum Creek
Nov. 8: Chloride Water Monitoring Training Session in Joliet
Nov. 8: Presentation on Recycling and HHW in New Lenox
Nov. 14: Chloride Water Training Session Virtual
Nov. 16: Alternative Plan Town Hall in Monee
Nov. 15: America Recycles Day
Dec 1 - Jan 31: String Light Recycling
Dec 6: Chloride Water Training Session Virtual



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Cleaning Alternatives



Donate Items



Composting



C-PACE Program



Reporting Data



Sustainable Infrastructure



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

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Will County



Resource Recovery
& Energy
*A Division of the
Will County Land Use
Department*

**Jennifer Bertino-
Tarrant
County Executive**



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