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Spotlight on Metal Recycling

Scrap metal tends to go unnoticed in most homes: Keys without known locks, torn screens, rusted shelves, metal hangers no longer in use, dented trash cans

HHW Collection!

Saturday, April 11
8:00am-3pm

JJC is partnering with the County to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection. It will be held in conjunction with Recyclepalooza this Saturday, from eight-o'clock in the morning until three-o'clock in the afternoon. The JJC Veterans Alliance has volunteered to assist staff from Will County, DART, Goodwill and Vintage Tech with the event.



Residents are encouraged to bring unwanted latex and oil-based paint, pesticides, fertilizers, left over driveway sealant, used automotive chemicals such as antifreeze and brake fluid, oil/gas mixes from snow blowers, oil filters, along with much more for proper recycling and disposal as part of the HHW collection.

In addition, everyone is invited to bring old carpet, carpet padding, wood with or without nails, plain, painted or stained; even treated lumber. Unwanted metal items will be accepted with electronics such as computers, TVs, MP3 players, radios, vacuum cleaners, blenders, toasters, power tools, curling irons, calculators and cameras to be recycled.

Recyclepalooza even offers Styrofoam recycling: Egg cartons, clean cups, clam shells, meat trays or broken foam coolers will be recycled!

Goodwill will be onsite to provide donation receipts for blankets, clothing, curtains, candy jars, paintings, photo frames, small furniture items such as lamps, end tables and chairs. They will also accept medical assistance items including crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and more.

or pots once used for cooking, tangles of old wires, unwanted hub caps, dented metal siding piled. These items and more accumulate in garages, sheds and basements. All these items can be recycled easily at Recyclepalooza in April or Sharefest in September.

For some, collecting old metal and taking it to scrap yards brings in extra cash. However, most metal prices are low - steel among the least valuable at the moment. Even copper, usually one of the highest valued, is at the lowest point worldwide in over a decade.

Rather than haggle over the value of some unwanted scraps, consider cleaning out your metal items and bringing them with all the other materials being taken at Recyclepalooza on Saturday, April 11 at JJC from 8am-3pm.

Drop-Off Sites Available Weekly
(click to see locations and hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

45th Earth Day!

Will County will be participating in a number of events in April and May celebrating our planet's resources! Please make time to bring your family or friends to a few of these unique fun and inspirational



events:
4/18 Frankfort Square Earth Fair offers a variety of activities and live raptors!
4/18 Frankfort Park District is offering their first Earth Fair for children and adults.
4/18 Pilcher Park Earth Day Celebration includes hikes, invasive species training and much more!
4/19 Plum Creek offers nature walks, displays and more at their Earth Day Celebration for the whole family!
4/21 New Lenox is offering their annual Health & Safety Fair prior to their weather spotter training. Visit over 25 booths offering an array of information for better health.
5/3 Earth Aid put together by the Bolingbrook Park District includes nature walks, presentations and give-aways!
5/9 Plainfield's annual Spring Environmental Expo covers a variety of topics, with something for everyone.
5/16 Homer Glen continues its Earth Day/Arbor Day Fair at Konow Farm with music, displays and activities to enjoy!
5/30 Bluestem offers its second Earth Festival at St. Francis University with dozens of information booths and a shredding event offered by the County (shredding from 10am-1pm only).

Picking Up Litter - Volunteer Efforts

Over the past couple of weeks, Helpers of Mother Earth has organized over a dozen litter collections throughout the Joliet and Lockport areas! Students from the University of St. Francis and the University of St. Thomas (in Minnesota) spent part of their Spring Break making a difference for our environment!



[Electronic Device Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

[Textile Donation or Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Traditional Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

Mark Your Calendar

**April 11
Recyclepalooza &
Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection**
8:00am-3:00pm
Saturday
Joliet Jr College
Joliet

**April 11
Document
Shredding**
11am-3pm

Litter is not just an eyesore or nuisance; it also clogs street drains, becomes a poison to animals, birds and fish as well as possible distraction to drivers. Thanks to the efforts of Virgil Kemp's non-profit organization, Helpers of Mother Earth, hundreds of students tackled a wide variety of litter in dozens of locations. Mr. Kemp encourages everyone to be part of the solution, not only by not littering, but by volunteering two hours, twice a year.

If you are interested in working one or two events to make a difference: Call Virgil Kemp at 708-767-1797 or visit www.meetup.com/Helpers-of-Mother-Earth-a-volunteer-Meetup-Group/ or visit their [Facebook page!](#)

Joliet Area YMCA wins America Recycles Day Contest!



The third and final winner of Will County's 2014 America Recycles Day non-profit contest was the Joliet Area YMCA. The YMCA serves residents in Joliet, Shorewood, Minooka, Rockdale and Plainfield.

The Joliet Area YMCA recently became recognized as a Will County Green Business Star. They contract for recycling service for paper, bottles, cans, fluorescent lights, electronic devices, and more. They reuse many office materials and supplies. Thermostats are set higher in the summer and lower in the winter to conserve energy. Recently, they held a collection for gym shoes and donated them. They participated in a plastic bags-to-blankets recycling program for the homeless.

Combined, the three YMCA locations have 450 part-time employees that will benefit from the iPad. Currently they use a manual paper card based timeclock system for the part-time employees. They are in the midst of purchasing a time keeping system that would allow employees to clock in on an iPad. This iPad will save paper, ink, and processing time.

Fountaindale
Library
Bolingbrook

April 7-17
Recycle Your
Bicycle
Monee Reservoir

April 18
Earth Fair
Frankfort Square

April 18
Earth Fair
Frankfort

April 18
Pilcher Park
Earth Day
Celebration
Joliet

April 19
Earth Day
Celebration
Plum Creek

April 22
Earth Day
45th Anniversary

April 24
Arbor Day

May 3
Earth Aid
11am-3pm
Sunday

FREE Garden Plots for Veterans!



Will County has joined forces with the Joliet Park District to offer FREE community garden plots to Veterans. In cooperation with the Will County Veterans Assistance Commission, veterans are being offered a plot, plant and seeds through Will County's We WILL Grow program.

Garden requests are due by April 21, 2015. For application and rule information, please email kpecora@willcountygrown.com or communitygarden@jolietpark.org or call 779-279-4729 (Joliet residency is NOT required)

Schools to Plant Trees for Earth Month!



Our Earth Flag Environmental Education Program is proud to announce that we will be gifting 1 to 2 trees to schools involved in our 2014/2015 classroom presentations. The trees will be made available through Living Lands & Waters in East Moline IL and Exelon Corporation. When the Will County Resource Recovery & Energy Division was too late in requesting trees, neighboring Exelon Corporation "stepped up" and donated part of their order of trees to be planted in county schoolyards.

We are happy to announce that this initial tree planting is just the beginning in expanding new presentation topics effecting clean land, air, and water. Next school year, we will grow trees in the classroom, teach the importance of gardens and native plantings, and encourage outdoor learning spaces at schools.

Thank you Living Lands & Waters and Exelon for this generous donation to our schools and our environment.

FREE Landscaping Lesson



The Will/South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District is offering their Annual Conservation Gardening Night program on Thursday, April 9th.

Bolingbrook

May 9
Household
Hazardous Waste
Event
8am-3pm
Saturday
Bolingbrook

May 15
Textile
Collection(Clothes
& Shoes)
8:30am-4:30pm
Monday-Friday
Joliet

May 16
Household
Hazardous Waste
Event
8am-3pm
Saturday
Monee

May 30
Bluestem Earth
Festival
10am-4pm
Document
Sredding
10am-1pm
Joliet

June 5,6,7
Book ReUse &
Recycling Event

Join University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Nancy Kuhajda at 7pm for an entertaining and informative presentation. She will provide all the information needed to get your garden and landscape in shape for the fast approaching spring and summer growing seasons. Topics will include composting, vegetable and flower gardening, tree planting, use of native plants and beneficial insects.

Tree seedlings and refreshments will also be available. The program will be held at the SWCD, 1201 S. Gougar Road, New Lenox. For more info, call SWCD at (815) 462-3106 ext. 3.

Conserving Water!

The four year drought in California and the 25% reduction in home and business water use that is being implemented is making headlines across the nation. While we are not in such dire



circumstances, we should not take our water supply for granted.

Whenever possible, we should reduce water use and do all we can to reduce storm water flooding. This means planting our yards with a variety of plants and consider adding a rain barrel or two beneath our gutters.

Native plants have deep roots that help hold soil in place and increase the amount of water absorbed during a rain fall. Rain gardens and bioswales also slow the water, allowing it an opportunity to replenish our aquifers and keeping it from overwhelming street drains.

Will County sells rain barrels through the Conservation Foundation. These can be pre-paid and picked up at one of Spring collection events. Simply click [here](#) for all the info!

9am-4pm
Joliet

August 1
Really, Really
Free Market
Plainfield

September 12
Sharefest
Collection
8am-3pm
New Lenox

September 19
Sharefest Give-
Away
9am-3pm
New Lenox

Join Our Mailing List!



April 2015



Conservation@Work!

The Conservation Foundation has launched a new program for businesses, park districts, homeowner associations, and units of local government to encourage sustainable landscape practices. The Conservation@Work program provides a meadow seed mix to replace grass. These natives species offer color and texture, enhancing the overall appearance while also reducing watering needs, increasing rain storage, slowing erosion, and attracting butterflies.

The Conservation Foundation even offers a personal site visit to assist you in determining your best approach. Please learn more about the program on their [website](#) or by calling their Conservation Program Manager, Jim Kleinwachter, at 630-428-4500 x 115.

Multifamily Owners can Save Energy!

Owners of apartment buildings have an opportunity to save money on energy bills. Elevate Energy is contracted by Natural Gas utilities to help owners and managers of multi-unit buildings identify ways to conserve water and power. They have calculated that a simple studio unit could save \$100 a year. Multiple that across larger units in bigger buildings, and the savings from simple lighting, faucet, shower and thermostat changes really adds up. To learn more call 773-299-7655!



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