

Featured Item



Traditional Recycling Drop-Offs

At this time of year, the cardboard, chipboard, wrapping paper, ripped gift bags and unwanted mail really pile up. If your recycling bin is overflowing or you simply don't have access to the curbside programs, be sure to drop-off all these recyclable items at one of the County's Traditional Recycling Drop-Off sites. These sites are offered in partnership with municipalities, park districts, and townships for residents and small businesses that don't have recycling collection service.

Congratulations to our A.R.D. Winner

WJOL assisted Will County and Vintage Tech Recyclers this past month in choosing Mike Leopold as the winner of a FREE refurbished laptop in honor of America Recycles Day.



Many thanks to all who entered the photo contest offered through Facebook. There were many creative entries featuring recycling and reuse of materials. Check them out and become a fan at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Will-County-Green/>

Home Energy Audit \$49

Host a workshop for friends & family, get it free



Residents are eligible for up to \$1,750 in combined rebates to save money, energy and increase the comfort of their homes. Energy Impact Illinois, in partnership with ComEd, Nicor Gas and other natural gas utilities, are offering energy efficiency home parties and instant rebates for area homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The rebate offers homeowners an easy way to address important home maintenance, like air sealing and insulation, this winter and spring. It takes three easy steps for a homeowner to take advantage of the rebates:

1. Call 1-855-9-Impact to get connected with a certified, quality energy efficiency contractor.
2. Arrange for the Energy Efficiency Assessor to conduct an energy analysis of your home and identify the most cost-effective improvements as well as inform you of the cost estimate.
3. A certified contractor completes the work and applies the instant rebates, provided by Energy Impact Illinois and your local utilities.



The list of items accepted is very extensive:

- All glass bottles, jars
- Aluminum cans, foil, bakeware
- Steel/Tin Cans
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- All Plastic Bottles except #6 (re-attach lids)
- All paper/fiber except with foil backing
- Beverage Carrier Straps also known as six-pack rings
- Drink Boxes
- Juice Boxes



Keeping recyclables out of our waste saves landfill space, natural resources, energy and prevents water pollution.

For every ton of paper recycled, 17 trees are saved.

Recycling 1 Glass Bottle saves enough energy to power the TV

For Will County residents, the rebate available consists of rebates primarily offered by the ComEd/Nicor Home Energy Savings program, as well as those through Energy Impact Illinois. The Home Energy Savings Program also offers discounted energy assessments for \$49, and free energy efficiency measures, like providing compact fluorescent light bulbs. If you are interested in receiving a free assessment or learning more about energy efficiency please ask for Brandon Pettigrew when you call 1-855-946-7228.

Gardening in Winter?

This winter, seniors at the Fairmont Community Center are creating plans for a community garden to be planted in spring 2013. Many Fairmont seniors already garden at home and are eager to bring their expertise to this larger project. Working with representatives from Will County, Lockport Park District, and the University of Illinois Extension, they hope to grow enough food for the gardeners to enjoy and to share with the community. The garden will be supported by formal organizations, like Openlands, a Chicago-based conservation group, as well as through donations, including manure for fertilizer, from local businesses.



Want to work on plans for your own backyard garden this winter? Joliet Park District has teamed up with the Univ of Illinois Extension office to offer three discussion at Inwood Athletic Board Room.

- Jan. 17 Gardener's Fireside Chat
- Feb. 7 Organic Gardening: What? Why?
- Feb. 19 Pre-Garden Party
- March 7 Seed Basics

Call 815.741.7275 or visit www.jolietpark.org for more info!

Biking to Work & School?

It may be winter now, but it is still a great time to be thinking warmer weather when everyone will be outside walking and biking again. Active Transportation Alliance wants to help!



Active Transportation Alliance is an organization that works to promote biking, walking, and public transportation use. They have many resources that can be used by teachers, schools, afterschool

for 3 hours.

PET plastic bottles are made into carpeting, fiber fill for stuffed animals, sleeping bags, clothing and more.

Drink Cartons are made of paper, plastic and a bit of aluminum. All can be recovered.



Join Our Mailing List!



December 2012

Happy New Year



Be Green!

programs, and any other professionals working with youth or in education.

Lesson books and full curricula provide opportunities for children to engage in healthy and safe physical activities and to learn how to make transportation choices that are both environmentally sustainable and economically smart. All lessons align with Illinois Learning Standards and/or Common Core Standards.

Active Transportation Alliance also offers workshops, trainings and presentations that empower you to be a supporter of active transportation. Support can also be provided to groups of teachers, parents, as well as students to work toward creating an environment where walking and biking are so safe and easy that they are the first choice for anyone and everyone. Visit www.activetrans.org/education for more details, and e-mail education@activetrans.org to connect with them further.

Recycle your Holiday Tree

"Recycle the Holiday Spirit!," is a free Christmas tree recycling program offered by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. It will run from Thursday, December 27 through Monday, January 7, with four tree drop-off sites around the county. Trees can be dropped off at any of the facilities between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Recycling Christmas trees saves landfill space and recycles the trees back to nature. The trees are chipped and then used at district preserves. Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville; the Sugar Creek Administration Center in Joliet; the Monee Reservoir in Monee and at Plum Creek Nature Center in Beecher.



Tell Your Friends

More electronic items are purchased at this time of year than any other. Many people don't realize 17 electronic items are banned from the landfill, and many more are recyclable. Tell your friends, co-workers, neighbors and family about the recycling options available. Encourage them to sign up for our newsletter and join us on Facebook or Twitter to stay up to date on all that can be recycled and the latest energy saving news!



Have a wonderful holiday from all of us at Will County!

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