



## Happy Holidays



## Featured Recyclable



### Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Gift Wrapping

Yes, gift wrapping is recyclable. Remove the ribbons, bows & tags and any metallic paper (such as silver, gold or metal flecked). While this is usually a low quality, heavily dyed fiber product, it can be recycled with newspaper, magazines, mail and cardboard.

Tissue paper is a lower quality fiber but can also be recycled if it can't be saved and reused.

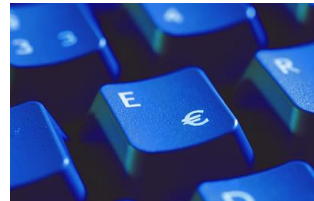
## Sunny Hill's Windows

One year ago, Will County was able to fund the replacement of 42 single pane windows at the Sunny Hill Nursing Home. Each new window has a thermal barrier double pane insulated glass with high performance low E finish. This provides 2.5 times as much insulation value, saving both heating and cooling energy. The cost of the windows was \$268,000 with an expected energy savings projected payback of six years, if it had not been grant funded. Residents of the home feel more comfortable and the overall cost of operation is lower, saving everyone money!



## Disposal Ban: Electronics

On January 1, 2012, many electronics will be banned from Illinois landfills. These items and more are accepted in the Will County Electronic Recycling programs. Beyond the 13 drop-off sites with weekly hours of operation throughout the County, many residents may be able to utilize FREE front-door collection service. Learn more. View our [YouTube Video](#) to see how items are recycled or visit our [webpage](#) for a list of items accepted and details on drop-off and front-door services.



## Green Business Star recognizes:

### Ruettiger, Tonelli & Associates

Ruettiger, Tonelli and Associates is an engineering and planning company with land surveying and landscape architect services. They have offices in Joliet where they are actively reducing waste and pursuing energy efficiency. They have joined the [Green Business Star](#) program at the first level with the intention to progress to higher levels

Whenever possible, save wrapping paper, bows, boxes and bags for reuse. Also, consider wrapping in alternative materials, such as used newspaper, decorated paper grocery bags or in a secondary gift - such as a towel, purse, backpack or cookie tin.

When giving gifts in reused materials or materials made from recycled products (such as recycled-content greeting cards) you are reducing waste, reducing energy use and reducing pollution.

Wrapping paper was uncommon in the first half of the last century. Many people are happy to find an unwrapped gift on their desk, sitting on a table or under a tree with just a tag or card. This "lack of wrapping" shows you care for the person and the environment!

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of achievement. Their staff is prepared to help clients reduce and reclaim water through innovative landscape design.



**Ruettiger, Tonelli & Associates, Inc.**

Surveyors • Engineers • Planners • Landscape Architects • G.I.S. Consultants

## erFeatured ReUse Option: Play It Again SPORTS



If you are one of the millions of Americans who will be getting in shape after all the holiday eating, consider purchasing weights or sports equipment from Play It Again Sports. This chain of stores specializes in fitness and sports equipment for children and adults. Children grow out of items quickly and this store offers a way to purchase items for less or recoup some of the cost on items in good condition.

From snow sports to summer pastimes and everything in between, Play It Again Sports helps people keep fit and save money. Reuse protects the environment by reducing the number of usable items that end up in landfills and the energy it takes for disposal.

## Noonan Academy gets a Worm Bin and becomes an Earth Flag School

Fifty-two schools joined the Will County Earth Flag program last year. Nearly as many have signed up this year, some have even applied for the County's Vermicomposting (worm composting) Grant. One of the schools that is new to the program but is jumping in with both feet, is Noonan Academy in Mokena. The second grade is learning more about recycling from the Environmental Educator. One of the classrooms is starting a food composting project with some hungry red wigglers. Find out more about the programs and how your school can become involved. [Click for more info.](#)



Just For Fun

The [WillCountyGreen.com](http://WillCountyGreen.com) website offers several games for kids and adults. Try your skill at identifying compostables, recyclables, energy efficient practices and more. Tell your friends and family, then sign up as a member to earn points towards prizes!



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