



## October Offers Electrifying Green Options

Get energized this October as we celebrate the conservation of energy, the grand opening of a bike sharing program that increases tourism, promising to bring residents and visitors to the gem that is Midwin, while we also take advantage of recycling programs, tour JJC's Arboretum, and find ways to make Halloween more green! (No, we are not suggesting you dress as Shrek!)

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### No appointment needed for Electronics Recycling Oct 19

On Saturday, October 19 all residents are welcome to bring their unwanted electronics (including TVs of any size - limit 2 per vehicle) to A-Team Recyclers facility at 304 Gregory Court (near Rt. 59 and Black Road) in Shorewood. Computers and all items related to them, audio equipment, calculators, all types of telephones, pagers, answering machines, digital photo frames, electric razors, power tools, and much more.



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### Bike Share Ribbon Cutting at Midwin on Oct 5

The I&M Canal Bike-Share ribbon-cutting is scheduled to take place at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie on Saturday, October 5, at 1 p.m. at the Iron Bridge Trailhead in Wilmington. The new Canal Corridor Association added this station to encourage visitors to explore the trails with the convenience of on-site bike rentals. On the day of the ribbon cutting guests will receive free bike ride coupons, bike the canal souvenir pins, and the first 50 guests also receive a commemorative t-shirt!



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### Sharefest Giveaway Day in New Lenox

Providence Catholic High School has partnered with Sharefest to offer a location in New Lenox to resume the amazing Give-Away event. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 26** to visit and take some of the Books, Clothes or home items at no charge. There will also be free health screenings, several service agencies and a job fair from 9am-1pm. In addition, participants can also receive free food courtesy of the Northern Illinois Food Bank and SharefestWillCounty.org from 11-1pm. Be sure to donate and/or come for the services!



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## Passive Energy Certification

The Plainfield Park District's Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC), has received Passive House Certification from Chicago-based Passive House Institute US. The certification makes PARC the first public recreation center in United States to receive the designation! In order to receive Passive House Certification, PARC's construction included super-efficient insulation and windows to create an air-tight structure that maintains a consistent indoor temperature regardless of outdoor conditions. As a result, PARC is 65% more efficient than buildings of similar size. With a 500-panel rooftop solar array capable of generating 213 kilowatts of electricity, PARC will also be able to offset its annual energy usage. Located at Gregory B. Bott Park, 24550 W. Renwick Rd., PARC includes a large gym, a 4,000-square-foot fitness center, fitness studio, an elevated walking track, 4 preschool classrooms, as well as a 1,600 square foot multi-purpose room and office space.



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## Will County Health tends a Healthy Garden

The Will County Health Department began an employee garden in 2014. From 2014-2016 the plots were made of pallets but in 2017 with assistance from Will County Green We Will Grow Garden program, the beds were raised. There are two employee wellness committee sponsored plots. One plot has strawberries, raspberries, mint and flowers. The other is an herb garden with cilantro, sage, dill, oregano, rosemary, thyme and a variety of tomato plants. These plots are each 5 by 10' and staff are free to pick from them daily. The other 14 plots are 5x5' and are rented by employees, for \$20/gardening season. Employees grow kale, collard and mustard greens, basil, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, celery, potatoes, peppers, zucchini, green beans, okra, melons and many other things. Each garden is very different. Many organizations should consider offering similar programs to improve the health of employees and give them a group activity to build morale.



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## JJC Sustainability Training

Joliet Junior College is offering a variety of FREE Workshops on Sustainability Topics. Here are just a few:



- Windpower Technology on Oct. 10 at 4:30pm
- Solar Power in Agriculture & Business on Oct 23 at 4:15pm
- Solar for Home Owners on Oct 23 at 7pm
- Irrigation Basics on Nov 6 at 4:15pm

[Learn More by clicking this link.](#)

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## October is Energy Awareness Month

If you haven't switched to a programmable thermostat, you are probably wasting your money on heating and cooling. Today you can even do better by switching to a SMART thermostat which is not only programmable, but can respond when you aren't home at your usual time. If you program the heat to increase to 68 or 70 when you arrive home but you run errands or go out to dinner, you can use your phone to delay the temp change and save money.



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## Halloween Tips & Tricks

Dressing yourself or your child for Halloween? Consider purchasing used costumes or making something from old clothes in the closet. When giving out treats, consider local sources for candy or healthy options or even, something out of the ordinary, such as bamboo straws or toothbrushes. They retail for the same as a full size candy bar but offer more use and environmental education for kids and adults alike!



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## Take 3 Event at Lewis on Nov 2

### Jack-O-Lantern Collection for Composting: 9am-Noon

Will County and Lewis University are teaming up to collect unwanted Jack-O-Lanterns from residents for composting. Illinois grows 90% of the pumpkins used in the United States. Don't let your pumpkin go to waste!

***Naked Pumpkins Only! (No candles, bags or boxes)***

### Composting Demonstration: 9am-Noon

The University of Illinois Master Gardeners will be offering Composting Instruction

### Document Destruction / Recycling: 9am-Noon

Will County is offering a document destruction event for all residents. Bring papers with social security, bank or credit card identification information for secure shredding. All paper that is shredded will be recycled.

### Electronics Recycling: 8am-Noon



Accepting a variety of electronic items, limit of 2 TVs per vehicle, no appliances.

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## JJC is collecting Jeans to turn into Insulation

Throughout the month of October, Joliet Junior College is asking students, faculty and the public to turn in unwanted jeans in any condition. The Sustainability Union is working with Habitat for Humanity and has drop-off collection bins all over campus. Blue jean insulation is reported to be better at noise reduction than traditional fiberglass insulation and provides equal protection in fire conditions. It is available at most home improvements stores but does cost a bit more.



## Best Leaf Practices

Leaves are full of nutrients, a natural fertilizer, but they need to be cut to speed their degradation. If you mow them, and leave them on the lawn, they will decompose and fertilize the yard. If you rake them, they make an excellent base for your compost which requires 2/3 carbon (leaves and twigs) and 1/3 food scraps and grass. Make the most of your leaves and learn how to start a compost by clicking [this link](#).



## Pack a Waste Free Lunch

As you pack your child's lunch or your own, consider choosing packaging that is reusable and items that are biodegradable or recyclable. Glass holds the optimal flavor but is often not used because it is heavy and breakable. Steel and aluminum containers are available. Cloth napkins, wraps made with beeswax and items such as apples, oranges and bananas, with their own cover, make wonderful additions. Always bring home what didn't get eaten to have for later or compost if necessary.



## Use the Car Wash, not the driveway

Splurge on the car wash and know you are helping the environment. These operations actually recycle the water, cleaning it, conserving it, all while delivering an excellent service. Washing a vehicle in your driveway allows oil and other pollutants to drain into your grass and to storm water systems where they contaminate streams and rivers.





## AMC 16 Offers Charging at the Movies

Enjoy the latest theatrical release while charging your car for FREE at AMC 16 in Naperville. Located just west of Rt 59 in Naperville, this popular movie destination features four spaces for those with electrical vehicles to recharge without charge, thanks to the VOLTA EV Charging model.



## Join JJC's Tours and Celebrations

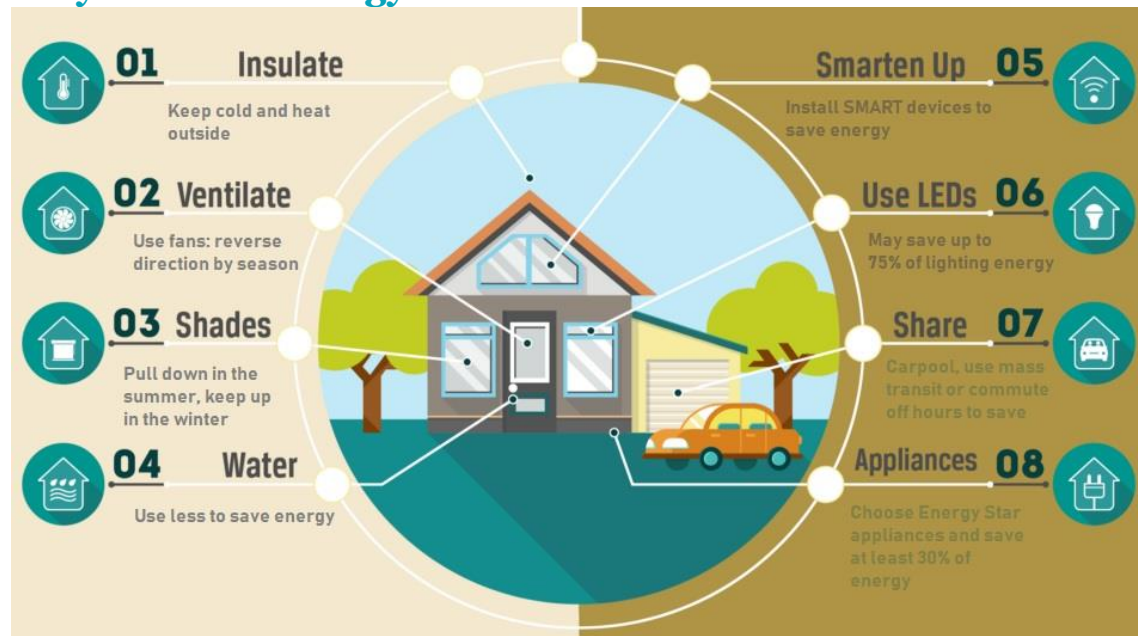
On Wednesday, October 16, JJC will be offering the "Oaktober Celebration" starting at 11am at the JJC Arboretum. They will be planting trees, playing games, and eating snacks. This event is designed to invite people to learn about JJC's arboretum and the importance of Oak trees in our area.

The following day, there will be a tour of the Arboretum starting from the Greenhouse parking lot at 10am with Dr. Fredric, rain or shine.

On Wednesday, October 23, residents are invited to join students to learn about the beauty of JJC's natural Fen. If you don't know about the many important environmental qualities of a Fen, this is a wonderful opportunity to see one of the very few located in Illinois.



## Ways to Save Energy and Water Around the House



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**Click for more information:**

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



Join the School  
Earth Flag  
Program



Virtual Tour  
Tour Recycling  
Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and  
School Garden  
Program



Farmer's Markets  
and Fresh Food  
Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water  
Conservation



Geothermal Info

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**Upcoming Events**

**Ribbon Cutting-  
Bike Share**

Midwin National  
Tallgrass Prairie  
FREE  
Wilmington  
**Saturday  
October 5  
12:30pm**

**Joliet Township  
CleanUp**

Meet at Laraway  
School  
Joliet  
**Saturday  
October 5  
9am-Noon**

**Helpers of Mother  
Earth CleanUp**

Meet at JJC  
Greenhouse  
Joliet  
**Saturday  
October 5  
10am-Noon**

**Green Drinks**

Illinois Environmental  
Council Update on  
Illinois Legislation  
Joliet  
**Wednesday  
October 9  
6pm-8pm**

**Electronic Recycling**

(Limit 2 TVs per car)  
Joliet/Shorewood  
**Saturday  
October 19  
8am-Noon**

**DEA Medication  
Take-Back**

various locations  
Nationwide  
**Saturday  
October 26  
10am-2pm**  
*(This service is  
available year round  
at many PDs)*

**Three Events in One  
Catapult a Pumpkin  
Shred Documents  
Recycle Electronics**

Lewis University  
Romeoville  
**Saturday  
November 2  
9am-Noon**

**Tire Recycling**

Will County Fair  
Grounds  
Peotone  
**Saturday  
November 9  
8am - 3pm**

**String Light  
Recycling**

Will County Office  
Building  
Will County Land Use  
Sunny Hill Nursing  
Home  
All Electronic Drop-  
Off Sites  
**Dec 1 - Jan 31**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy  
815-727-8834 | [info@willcountygreen.com](mailto:info@willcountygreen.com) | [www.WillCountyGreen.com](http://www.WillCountyGreen.com)

STAY CONNECTED:



Will County, Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy,  
58 E. Clinton Street, Joliet, IL 60432

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