



## Save on Solar; Clean out Hazardous Waste

Curious about solar options but not sure who to trust, learn more virtually and get a contractor that has been checked out by professionals. While, we want to thank all the folks cleaning out that brought items to us last month, now is the chance to get rid of the hazardous stuff in cabinets and garages. Applause for Girl Scouts in New Lenox, praise for some amazing tree planting in Peotone and shout outs for food and corporate efforts to reduce carbon emissions!

[Visit Our Website](#)

## Tune in to Save Money Going Solar

One hour info session from the convenience of your own home to learn about a group buying option. For the second year in a row, Will County has partnered with the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#) to offer homeowners information on solar. The virtual presentations are free to attend. Hear about the incentives currently available and the advantages to purchasing as a group. Decide if you want an evaluation of your home, it is provided at no additional cost or obligation, from a vetted contractor. Please [click to learn more!](#)



## Recycling can be Confusing - Let's Sort it Out!

The Conservation Foundation is hosting a Zoom Meeting on August 19 with Will County's Recycling Specialist offering the most up to date information on items accepted for recycling in curbside program and a dozen others that can be recycled but NOT in the traditional home services. Caps on or off? What is a contaminated Pizza Box? Plastic bags can only be recycled at retail locations unless turned into "plarn" and China is still an issue. If you have questions, tune in!



**AUG 19** Recycling Confusion--Let's Sort it Out!  
Public - Hosted by **The Conservation Foundation**  
🕒 Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 1 PM - 2 PM  
📍 Zoom Webinar

## Three More Winners - Enter for your Chance to Win

In July, three more winners were named in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day Passport event. Brigette Garay of Joliet won a \$50 gift card to Heroes West in Joliet. Dawn Hensen-Leonard of Lockport won \$25 gift cards to Peter Rubi of Plainfield and Nancy's Pizza, which has multiple locations. Lisa Kazmi of Romeoville won a \$20 gift certificate to Milette's Cakes of Plainfield, a \$25 gift card to Jitters in Joliet and several sustainability items from the Land Use Department.

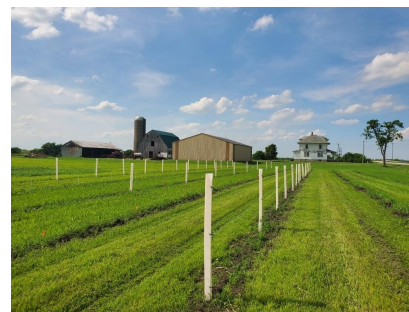


Each raffle prize is worth at least \$50 in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Additional **drawings will be held Aug. 8 and Sept. 15**, every 50 days from the start of the program. The education- and activity-based event is intended to encourage everyone to find ways to help the environment. See all the good you are doing, log into [WillCountyEarthDay.com](http://WillCountyEarthDay.com) to see how quickly your actions qualify you to be in the next raffles!

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## 10,000 Trees being planted at Rock Creek Farm in Peotone

Exciting things are happening on Will County farms! Rock Creek Farm in Peotone has partnered with the Savanna Institute, Midwest Agroforestry Solutions, Healing Soils Foundation, and the USDA-NRCS to plant 10,000 trees. This kickstarted an agroforestry project funded through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Reserve Program. A windbreak has been established, consisting of 25 species of trees, planted in 8 rows, which will improve soil and water retention, reduce erosion and protect organic crops from pesticide drift. You can learn more about this project and volunteer to help by contacting [jborland@iroquoisvalleyfarms.com](mailto:jborland@iroquoisvalleyfarms.com) or by visiting [Rock Creek's](#) Facebook page to follow their progress. So far, they have planted 9,000 trees saplings!



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## Girl Scouts create garden in New Lenox Commons

The Village of New Lenox has a beautiful new Butterfly Way Station Garden thanks to **Aubrey Jackson, Lauren McGreal, Sydney Rinker, and Megan Trevathan** of Girl Scout Troop 125. Planning began a year ago when the girls (4th and 5th grade) were searching for projects to earn the Bronze Award. Once the garden was selected, they met with Master Gardener, Nancy Kuhujda from the Unv of IL Extension Office who taught the girls about the importance of Monarch butterflies and helped the girls develop a garden plan. They proposed the project to Mayor Tim Baldermann, who approved it for the prestigious center of the community. In June, the Public Works department helped prepare the ground. The garden habitat is now registered online in the National Way Station Registry as a Certified Butterfly Way Station.



## Electronics and Household Hazardous Collection

Our annual Fall Recyclepalooza is not possible to offer due to COVID but we are able to offer an Electronics and HHW collection event the second Saturday of September in New Lenox in partnership with the Village and Township. If you have noticed a number of electronic items that have ceased working or some chemicals you no longer need, please make an appointment and drop-off them off on **September 12 between 8am and 3pm**. To see a list of accepted items and make your appointment, [please click this link!](#)



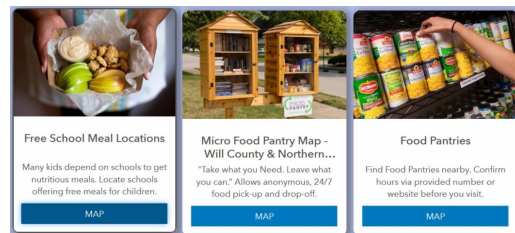
## Thanks for supporting the Textile & Home Goods Event

A record breaking 34,752 pounds of material was collected over the 5 day event at the County Building. When this event first launched in 2005, only gym shoes were accepted. All shoes were taken the following year. In 2010 the County added one day for small home goods. This became the norm for most of the remaining years, until this year. Postponed due to COVID, held in July instead of May, with a contractor (Helping Hands) able to staff a truck each day in the parking lot, we witnessed an unprecedented response. We nearly tripled last year's total, which was our highest ever! Congratulations to all that participated and kept these items out of the landfill. Requests for a second event are being considered but to be done on a Saturday morning at different location.



## Food Insecurity during COVID

The Will County GIS department partnered with the Health Department, Northern Illinois Food Bank and other community organizations to address real needs during this pandemic. There have been disruptions to the food chain due to infections at meat processing facilities, transportation problems with reports of dairy farmers dumping milk while families struggle financially. Schools were working to deliver lunches even while closed. Please take a moment to see the amazing information now available through our GIS department's effort. They have created a website filled with information to help both those that wish to donate and those with needs



## Microsoft: Carbon Emission Reduction to New Heights

Over the past few years there have been climate change commitments from many big tech companies. Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Google have each promised to shrink their substantial carbon emissions. Recently, however, Microsoft has gone far beyond the goals of lower greenhouse gas emissions or achieving carbon neutrality. They have announced a goal to go carbon negative, wiping

out all the carbon the company and its suppliers have emitted since its founding in 1975. They are pushing to achieve this by 2030. It is an inspiring and ambitious endeavor.



## 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!

**MEMBER**  
Will County Green Business Program



[willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)

GREEN Business



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

## Upcoming Events

**Will County  
Earth Day  
50th Anniversary  
Passport**  
Variety of locations

**Solarize  
Chicagoland**  
Virtual Presentations  
**Multiple Days  
June-August**

**Recycling Confusion:  
Let's Sort it Out**  
Virtual  
**August 19  
1pm-2pm**

**Multiple Days**  
**March 14-Sept 15**  
**Varies**  
[\(click for Passport\)](#)

**Varies**  
[\(click for list of dates and times\)](#)

[\(click to register\)](#)

**Electronics & HHW**  
New Lenox  
*Appointments Required*  
**Saturday**  
**Sept 12**  
**8am - 3pm**

**Book Reuse & Recycling Event**  
Joliet  
*Canceled Due to COVID*

**Electronics & HHW**  
Wilmington  
*Appointments Required*  
**Saturday**  
**Oct. 24**  
**8am - 3pm**

**Pumpkin Pitch, Shredding, Electronics**  
Romeoville  
**Saturday**  
**Nov 7**  
**9am - Noon**

**Electronics & HHW**  
TBA  
*Appointments Required*  
**Saturday**  
**Nov 14**  
**8am - 3pm**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy  
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STAY CONNECTED:

