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Make everyday Earth Day - Green your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy

The Shades of Summer Green

Happy Independence Day! We had the most amazing turn out for our annual Book event kicking off the summer, and we celebrated our schools that continued to participate in our Earth Flag program during a challenging year. Now we are moving forward, towards the return of the Love Monee social and environmental community events, with stops for recycling, reusing (check out the garage sales and thrift stores), gardening (we are conserving water with all the rainfall) and becoming more energy efficient. See below to learn about an excellent scout project in Channahon, the retirement of the leader of our environmental efforts and some tips for you, your family and possibly, your business.

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LOVE MONEE starts with Shredding

The Love in Action annual Monee event is back with some health precautions. The week will kick off with the [Shredding Event on July 31st](#), and there will be a large food distribution on August 7th with a few medical mobiles out; the Versiti bloodmobile and the Pregnancy resource van (they are able to do some testing and ultrasound, as well). While all the usual festivities held in 2018 and 2019 are not planned, there is an effort underway to bring them back in 2022. For more info visit www.provisionlab.org



St. Boniface Church Parking Lot
5304 Main St
Monee, IL, 60449
9am-11am - Limit 3 Boxes

Congratulations to Dean Olson

For the past twenty-four years Dean Olson has been the Director of the Resource Recovery & Energy Division (known as Waste Services prior to 2010). He was the first to create a school education program, begin regular collection events and expand energy and water conservation efforts while overseeing the opening of the Prairie View Landfill, the methane gas-to-electricity system installation in 2011 and the new effort to turn methane into fuel currently projected to open in 2022 bringing millions of dollars to the County for various operations. Join us in congratulating him and thanking him for his dedication and leadership.



County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant with Dean Olson, County Board Member Natalie Coleman, and Land Use Department Director David Dubois.

Earth Flag Schools 2020-2021

This past school year was easily the most challenging on record for all involved. That is why we need some special thanks to those that made time for our Educator to visit and made environmental education an everyday part of the school's mission.



Andrew H.S. - Tinley Park
Butler - Homer Glen
Carl Sandburg - Joliet
Chelsea - Mokena
Cunningham - Joliet
Elwood School - Elwood



Lincoln-Way Central
Environmental Club - New Lenox
Lockport H.S. Interact - Lockport
Ludwig - Lockport
Lupine Montessori - Lockport
Milne Grove - Lockport

Frankfort Square - Frankfort
Haines Aces Club - New Lenox
Hermansen - Romeoville
Holy Family-Shorewood
Joliet Montessori – Crest Hill
Irene King - Romeoville

Nelson Prairie Aces - New Lenox
Richland - Crest Hill
St. Dennis - Lockport
Spencer Schools Aces-New Lenox
Three Rivers - Channahon
Tyler School Aces - New Lenox

Hybrid EVs make \$ense

Most people drive under 40 miles in their daily commute, which includes work and errands. This simply means that a hybrid plug-in can charge at your home overnight, have enough electric power to meet your daily needs but have gasoline as a backup source of power for a long trip. For folks wanting to switch but worried about cost, the new and used models are less costly than the fully electric vehicles but with good charging habits, give you 150 miles per gallon and fewer oil changes, saving a typical owner thousands in fueling and maintenance costs over the life of car.



Nature Conservation Day is July 28

People come together to support nature on World Nature Conservation Day. The day is observed "to increase awareness about protecting our natural resources and to make people understand the importance of the conservation of nature." It "recognizes that a healthy environment is the foundation for a stable and productive society," and it "ensures the well-being of present and future generations." It encourages all to participate in the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources. Ways to observe the day include: Litter Clean-up, Recycling, Gardening, Watching a



documentary about conservation or reading a book on the subject.

In Person Composting Workshop

The Forest Preserve and RR&E are teaming up to offer a Composting Workshop on Sunday July 11th – from 10:30am until Noon at the Plum Creek Nature Center. This Composting 101 event is FREE for ages 18 and older. Learn how and why to achieve optimal decomposition using “greens,” “browns,” air and moisture.

The Compost Trail Exhibit at Plum Creek will model six composting units that have successfully been used in residential backyards. Will County composting regulations for both incorporated and unincorporated areas will be discussed.

[Register now by clicking here.](#)



[Registration Closes July 9](#)

EVENT DAY: Sunday July 11, 2021
10:30am - Noon
Plum Creek Nature Center
27064 Dutton Road
Beecher

Bicycle Path Grant

The Village of Channahon was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for the final phase of the Bridge Street Multi-Use Path project. This project not only affects Channahon residents; "it also enhances the safety and connectivity measures for residents in Minooka and the greater surrounding communities. Residents will have an alternate means of transportation to and from the area schools, the Village's municipal areas, public parks like the I&M Canal Park, Four Rivers Environmental Center, and more."



July 15 Webinar on Heat Pumps

The Illinois Green Alliance is offering a FREE presentation on the heating and cooling energy and comfort advantages of installing heat pumps. There are several types and it is important to know how they differ. This webinar will cover 4 separate types of heat pumps including: air-to-air, air-to-water, geothermal and natural gas. Experts will discuss how they operate, what types of applications they are suited for and the efficiency we can expect from these units. Brands covered:

- Mitsubishi Electric
- Gas Technology Institute
- Trane
- Chiltrix



[Register Here](#)
Thursday, July 15
3pm - 4:30pm

Sunshine Energy

Did you know that the Illinois Solar Education Association has a [YouTube Channel](#) with Virtual Solar Tours? They encourage residents to learn about Heat Pumps, Solar Farms, Rooftop Solar and powering Electric Vehicles with the sun! [Click the link](#) to learn how solar can fit into your lifestyle.



Eagle Scout Garden Project

Channahon is blessed with an amazing young woman that chose a Pollinator Garden as her Eagle Scout project after learning about the rapid population decline of monarch butterflies and native bees. Eilleen Koran planted native species because she read native pollinators, the insects struggling the most, depend on the nutrients that native plants provide, Milkweed is considered one of the best food sources for Monarch Butterflies because it provides for both the young caterpillar and adult butterflies, and also the nectar from it's flowers attracts butterflies to lay their eggs on its leaves as a host plant. "There are hundreds of other Illinois-native plants that pollinators depend on for their survival, so by experimenting with different plants, you can attract a wide variety of different pollinators to your garden, including the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumblebee."



Eilleen Koran's
Eagle Scout Garden Project

Ms. Koran added a native seed exchange box next to the garden to make planting pollinator gardens easier and more-accessible for other people in the community. "The more people that can get involved with planting even just a few native plants, the better off pollinators (and the environment as a whole) will become." The garden is a 900sq ft circle, but pollinator gardens can be any size/shape and have a wide variety of plants. Always consider your soil type and sunlight conditions so both the plants and pollinators thrive.

Book Event - Enormous Success

In masks and socially distancing, it is estimated over 1,000 residents visited the three-day book event in June. Books covered the usual tables in several rooms of the Pilcher Park Nature Center, but also the porch, and tables under tents. The estimated number of books donated by libraries and schools was 77,325 and a possible 50,000 more were delivered by the public. Based on non-scientific surveys of participants, 96,425 were taken for reuse, leaving 31,000 for recycling. The event utilized 30 volunteers, including several adult members of the public, 20 students from National Honor Society of the Plainfield High Schools, 2 LincolnWay students, 3 Joliet Catholic Academy students. Hard cover books were recycled though Revell's Recycling of Homer Glen. All CDs and DVDs were taken!



Largest Book Event in the County's
23 year history of offering them.
Many cited pent up demand due to
the being unable to offer this event
in 2020 because of COVID.

Buy Recycled Content Items

For over two decades, Tailwind Furniture, an Illinois business, has been manufacturing earth-friendly, commercial grade, outdoor furniture for the aquatics industry, park districts, restaurants and anyone with outdoor furniture needs. Their unique outdoor dining sets, benches, Adirondack Chairs, and Lifeguard Chairs are virtually maintenance free by using recycled plastic lumber. Purchasing just one Adirondack Chair diverts 450 milk jugs from landfills. Be sure to visit them at www.tailwindfurniture.com.



Facebook Fan Question about Juice Cartons

Gable-top beverage cartons are recyclable in every curbside program in Will County and at County Partner Recycling Drop-Offs. A resident recently asked if caps should be kept on cartons like they are on plastic bottles and the answer is YES. The caps will be recovered and recycled when bales of cartons are sent for processing.



Upcoming Events

July 31: Love Monee Document Shredding

Aug 3: Really, Really Free Market canceled due to COVID

Sept 11: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox

Sept 25: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Event in Homer Glen

Nov 6: Triple Dipper: Pumpkin Pitch with Document Shredding and Electronics at Lewis University in Romeoville

Nov 15: America Recycles Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off

Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs

Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

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Will County



Resource Recovery
& Energy
*A Division of the
Will County Land Use
Department*



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