

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



On Green Wings, may your heart soar!

The EPA was created by President Nixon in 1970 and tasked with protecting our air, water and land! It was this agency that banned the pesticide DDT in the USA which was responsible for our national bird, the Bald Eagle, almost going extinct. The EPA's efforts took lead out of paint and gasoline. They created the laws that banned dumps and created safer engineered landfills. Every day we benefit from this agency's research, clean-ups and monitoring efforts to protect our environment.

[Visit Our Website](#)

The Great Backyard Bird Count

The 20th annual GBBC is taking place February 17-20 in backyards, parks, nature centers, on hiking trails, school grounds, balconies, and beaches-anywhere you find birds. Bird watchers count the birds they see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, then enter their checklists at birdcount.org. All the data contribute to a snapshot of bird distribution and help scientists see changes over the past 20 years.

Learn more about how to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count at birdcount.org where downloadable instructions and an explanatory PowerPoint are available. The GBBC is a joint project of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon Society](#) with partner [Bird Studies Canada](#) and is made possible in part by sponsor [Wild Birds Unlimited](#).



Become a Bee Keeper

February 18: A full day of workshops will be offered for all levels of experience. Beginning Beekeeping will be presented for anyone who wants to get started keeping bees or is just curious what its all about. If you are interested in getting started with honey bees or know someone who is, this is your chance to find out how to get started. Topics for experienced beekeepers include honey bee nutrition, queen nutrition, overwintering nucs, trouble shooting hive problems, honey production methods, marketing your hive products, Fee for the Workshop: \$65 early registration includes lunch \$85 after 7pm Feb 10 and no lunch included.



More Info

Free Garden Plots for Vets!

The Office of the Will County Executive, Will County Land Use Department and the Joliet Park District are offering FREE 10 ft x 10 ft Garden Plots to Will County Veterans. There are 35 plots available:



- No Joliet Residency Requirement
- Water available to each site
- Will County will supply plants and items needed to maintain plots when purchased through partner vendors
- All purchases must be approved.
- Rototiller services are available for a fee
- Deadline for application is March 31, 2017

More Info

March 18 Collection!

Will County is kicking off the Spring Collections with a combination Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Event in Romeoville! On

Saturday, March 18 from 8am to 3pm we will be accepting a wide variety of electronics items with a limit of two per vehicle on Televisions. We will also be collecting aerosols, paint, pesticides, items containing mercury, cleaning and pool chemicals, along with all types of automotive fluids.



[Click here for a List of Items, Directions and More Info](#)

STEM Festival at the Library

On Saturday, March 4, visitors are welcome to enjoy a day of outstanding hands-on activities and engaging demonstrations from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) leaders and innovators. Fun, stimulating activities from SciTech Museum of Aurora, Northern Illinois University's STEM Outreach Department, Elmhurst's Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, 3D Universe, Will County Children's Museum, Fermilab high-energy particle physics research facility, Worms from Will County RR&E and many more exhibitors will be featured. At noon, special guest Magician Steven Belliveau will present Getting Excited About Science - a must-see show of spectacular demonstrations that will really get kids thinking!

 **Science is awesome!**
When: Saturday, March 4, 2017
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



201 W. Normantown Road
Romeoville

Tax on Bags in Chicago

First the City of Chicago tried to ban plastic bags but stores made them thicker, skirting the ban. The bags continued to be sent to the landfill or left to blow on tree limbs. As a result, this month, the ban is lifted and replaced with a seven cent tax on all bags! Retailers keep two cents and the city estimates it will raise \$9.2 million from the 5 cents it receives! It is easy enough to avoid this tax, the City is asking residents to bring their own bags to stores. What would you do?



Superbowl Recycling & Composting

According to Waste360, approximately 150 new recycling bins were placed throughout NRG Stadium, and about a dozen local agencies were recruited by the Houston Food Bank to help capture unserved, surplus food from the stadium. The electricity powering the lights and amazing half time show were 100% green! Prior to the event, a public electronics recycling collection was offered, along with a "Super Sharing Sports Equipment and Book Donation Event." Superbowl organizers did their best to make the environment a winner at Sunday's game!



Reduce Paper Towel Use

The commercials are appealing, they make disposable paper towels sound like the only real way to keep your kitchen clean. However, cloth dishtowels are just as capable, usually more absorbent and easily tossed in the laundry. Challenge yourself and your family to use cloth alternatives from fancy dishtowels to old socks for the everyday messes and even to keep veggies fresh!



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

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

Great Backyard Bird Count
Various Locations
Feb. 17 - Feb. 19

Beekeeping Workshop
JJC, Weitendorf Agricultural Educational Center
Joliet
Feb. 18

STEM Event
White Oak Library
Romeoville
March 4

Electronics & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
H.S. Parking Lot
Romeoville
March 18

Earth Hour
March 25
(send in a photo of normal lights vs lights off)

Electronics & Household Hazardous Waste Collection
County Offices
Shorewood/Joliet
April 8

Earth Day
April 22

Gym Shoe & Textile Collection Week
County Office
Joliet
May 1,2,3,4,5

Electronics & Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Township Building
Beecher
May 6

Bluestem Earth Festival
Unv. of St. Francis
Joliet
May 20

Book Reuse & Recycling Event
Pilcher Park
Joliet
June 2,3,4

