

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



Earth Day Every Day! Celebrations in May!

Earth Day might be April 22 but May has been celebrated as the greenest month in Will County for many years. We have several events this month and several communities hold environmental fairs. Be sure to keep May 20 open to visit Bluestem at the University of St. Francis in Joliet or the Earth Day/Arbor Day Fair in Homer Glen. See this month's newsletter for more info!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Textile Collection Week is May 1 - 5

The average person discards 70 pounds of clothing a year! All of it could be reused or recycled if donated. Will County offers a week long collection at our County Offices, 302 N. Chicago Ave, Joliet, from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Friday is especially long, starting at 5:30am with a live broadcast featuring the WJOL Morning Crew! On Friday, Goodwill will be on-site to offer donation receipts and accept home goods along with the gym shoes, boots, linens, drapes and clothes!



[More Details](#)

HHW & Electronics Collection in Beecher!

Saturday, May 6, 2017 8am-3pm
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road
Beecher, IL 60401

Old TVs, computers, stereo equipment, along with cleaners, pesticides, automotive fluids, and even medicine can be dropped off at this event. It is the last Spring Collection. We will offer a couple more in the Fall!



[Click for Event Details.](#)

Book Reuse and Recycling Weekend!

For nearly two decades Will County has offered an opportunity for residents to share their books with others. It began as a one-day event and became a three day reading celebration. Books of all types, from romance and self-help to children's favorites and autobiographies are dropped off. Volunteers and county employees sort books in broad categories and set them on tables inside Pilcher Park Nature Center. People of all ages browse the selections, taking as many books as they like FREE of charge.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday June 2,3,4 9am-4pm
Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Drive
Joliet, IL 60432



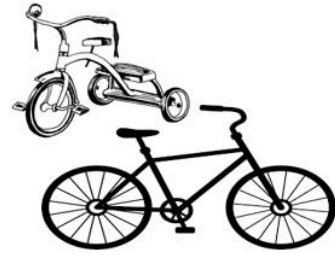
Earth Day - Arbor Day

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April but recognizing the value of trees and planting some can be done most of the year! **Homer Glen holds an Earth Day-Arbor Day Fair each May** to draw attention to the importance of valuing our environment. Trees provide us oxygen, sequester CO₂, increase our home value, provide paper, wood, and food. Be sure to appreciate them!



Bicycle Collection - May 6

The New Lenox Rotary Club has teamed up with Al Schroeder's Bicycle Recycling Program. They are collecting bicycles on Saturday, May 6. The bicycles will be refurbished and given to children and adults in need. **8am to NOON** at Laraway Ridge Plaza, located at 828 W Laraway Road, New Lenox.



Bluestem - May 20

This will be the 4th Bluestem Earth Festival at St. Francis University. It will be offered **10am to 3pm** and offer over 80 eco-conscious exhibits and vendors, earth-friendly activities, workshops, live demos, entertainment, local food and children's activities. Enjoy live music from the Running Fox Bluegrass Band. This year, Bluestem is introducing "Bluestem University" to all guests! Bluestem University is a flagship program of Bluestem Earth Festival that includes original, intriguing, no-cost courses within 5 schools that offer incentives and knowledge to empower individuals and families to live a healthier, more sustainable and socially responsible lifestyle. Bluestem is partnering with Northern IL Food Bank to offer a food collection at the event.



Install a Rain Barrel now for later

A typical "Chicago Style" bungalow has a roof size of about 1,000 to 1,500 sq ft. During a storm in which a half-inch of rain falls, a 1,000 square foot roof will produce about 300 gallons of water. Most rain barrels only hold about 55 gallons. Install a rain barrel, collect some, use an overflow valve and hose to allow the rest to flow across your yard. Use the rain you saved to water during the next dry spell! Here are four reasons to install rain barrels at your downspouts:



- To reduce flooding in your yard or basement by storing rain water now so that you may use it in the future to water the plants in your yard.
- To save money on your water and sewage bills.
- To provide your plants with the untreated water they really need. Rain is naturally soft water and does not contain minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals.
- To help the environment by reducing the amount of water that rushes into city sewage systems and nearby streams. Using stored rain water allows it to absorb slowly into the ground replenishing our natural underground water supplies.

Avoid the Bite of Ticks & Mosquitoes

This year, thanks to the mild winter, we will see more mosquitoes and ticks. You can help control mosquitoes before they become a problem. Regularly drain or change standing water near your home - **some mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of water to breed**. If you use insect repellents, always **READ THE LABEL** and be sure follow the directions for correct use for yourself, on kids, on pets and around your home.



- [Repellents](#)
- [Control ideas](#)

Food Waste Reduction Challenge!

The US EPA wants us to reduce food waste. There are great reasons to do more to cut down on the food sent to landfills. The first is to save money by buying what we need and eating it! Sounds simple but we all know it's complicated. From purchasing in bulk, to storage choices that reduce shelf life to forgetting to eat our leftovers, we waste a lot. We can do more, just click this link to get great suggestions!



[More Info](#)

Smashing Collection Records!

In the Fall of 2001, Will County's second annual Electronics Collection, held in Naperville, set a record of over **103,000** pounds. That record held for 15 years, unbroken until November last year when over **106,000** pounds of electronics were collected in Braidwood! However, that record only held until this year's first Saturday collection in Romeoville, where over **112,000** pounds of electronics were collected! In April, the collection at Troy Middle School topped it, taking over **121,000** pounds! This event also set a new record for participation, with 1,551 vehicles served! Congratulations is due to all Will County residents for their dedication to the environment! Happy Earth Month!



Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[Medication](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[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

Upcoming Events

**Gym Shoe & Textile
Collection Event**

County Office
Joliet

May 1,2,3,4,5

**Electronics &
Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection**

Township Building
Beecher
May 6

**Document
Destruction**

Fountaindale Library
Bolingbrook

May 20

**Bluestem Earth
Festival**

University of
St. Francis
Joliet

May 20

**Book Reuse &
Recycling Event**

Pilcher Park
Joliet

June 2,3,4

**August - November
Events**

**to
be
announced**

