



**JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT**  
**WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

As August comes to a close, I'd like to thank all of the school districts and community organizations who have hosted Back to School Fairs to help parents and students prepare for the upcoming school year. My office participated in several of these events, and I saw first-hand the positive impact they had on attendees. To parents, teachers, and students: I hope you have a great school year!

This month I also had the opportunity to present my official State of the County Address to the Will County Board. This was an opportunity to spotlight accomplishments over the last year and share how county government is responding to increased growth.

I'm proud to say that the state of the county is strong. Our communities are thriving and our economy remains strong, with rising wages and low unemployment. We also remain the fastest-growing county in Illinois.

With growth comes challenges and one of the key themes of my speech was how Will County government has truly stepped up over the last year in modernizing our daily operations and finding more efficient ways of doing business. These good government principles are driving my administration to better serve residents and prepare for growth. I appreciate the leadership and staff in our departments who are constantly seeking innovative solutions to problems and have learned over the years to do a lot with a little.

As Will County's Chief Executive Officer, I witness the important role that county government plays in people's lives every day. I'm proud of the work we've done over the last year, and I look forward to continuing to share information with you about our initiatives and progress throughout the year.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



## State of the County Highlights

County Executive Bertino-Tarrant delivered the 2023 State of the County and Budget Address at the August 17th meeting of the Will County Board. Below are highlights of some of the progress achieved by Will County government over the last year:

**Renewable Natural Gas Plant** – Will County's RNG Plant began commercial operations in December and has already raised \$3.1 Million in revenue. The plant converts gas from Prairie View Landfill into pipeline-quality transportation fuel that is sold on the open market.

**Will County Heroes** – The Will County Heroes Nursing and Teaching scholarship is investing \$10 Million into increasing recruitment of nursing and teaching students in Will County. Four higher education partners have already started awarding scholarships to students. Learn more about the program at [willcountyillinois.org/heroes](http://willcountyillinois.org/heroes).

**Access Will County** – The County Executive Office completed the Access Will County Paratransit Integration and Efficiency Study. The study examined the 12 existing dial-a-ride systems in Will County and how they are serving residents who rely on paratransit services. The study identified gaps and proposed several short- and long-term solutions.

**Modern Voting Equipment** – Will County Clerk Lauren Staley-Ferry is utilizing a \$7.8 Million allocation to purchase state-of-the-art voting equipment, ensuring a modernized election process.

**Children's Advocacy Center** – The Executive Office is working closely with the State's Attorney's Office to move the Children's Advocacy Center to a new location in a former daycare center. This new facility creates a more welcoming environment in a better-situated facility.

**Downpayment Assistance Program** – Utilizing federal funds, Will County implemented a Downpayment Assistance Program to help low- or moderate- income households achieve home ownership.

**Balanced Budget** – County Executive Bertino-Tarrant proposed a balanced budget proposal that funds county services and meets the county's financial obligations. The proposed budget prioritizes public safety, with 62% of the budget funding public safety agencies and court services, and does not call for the full allowable tax levy. If approved, this would result in a \$2 million savings to taxpayers.

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## Will County Fair

Our office had a great time at the 120th Will County Fair!

This was a great opportunity for residents to directly connect with county resources. County Executive Bertino-Tarrant attended the ribbon cutting to celebrate 120 years of family-friendly fun and our volunteers were present on all five days in the Atrium to share resources and information with residents.

Thank you to everyone that stopped by to say hi and congratulations to the Will County Fair Association on another successful fair!

## BEP Workshop

Business owners are invited to attend a free in-person workshop to learn about the Illinois Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and local resources.

The BEP Program is managed by the state and works to empower businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities with opportunities to access public and private business opportunities. It helps businesses increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials.

**Thursday, September 7, 2023 - 5:00-6:30 p.m.**  
Joliet Public Library, 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL

## Recycling Events

Fall is the perfect time to start cleaning, decluttering, and organizing! To help residents with their Fall Cleaning, the Will County Resource Recovery & Energy Division is hosting two recycling events for residents in September to start responsibly discarding items:

### Recyclepalooza Saturday, September 9

**Location**  
Spencer School Campus  
1711 S. Spencer Rd., New Lenox, IL

**Time**  
8AM - 3PM

### Tire Recycling Collection Saturday, September 16

**Location**  
Will County Fairgrounds  
710 S. West St., Peotone, IL

**Time**  
8AM - 3PM

**NO** Appointment Required

Make an appointment



Learn more about  
Recyclepalooza and  
Tire Recycling Collection



# Environmental Education Program

**Teachers:** Looking for a fun guest speaker and activity for your class this school year? Will County's Land Use Department offers a program to have a guest speaker attend and educate your class/group on ways they can help the environment.

Will County's Environmental Educator, Erin Noon, visits schools, libraries, and community groups throughout the year, sharing knowledge through fun games and activities to local Will County students.

**"I enjoy being with the kids,"** said Noon. **"I love the environment!"**

Interested teachers and group leaders can request a presentation by reaching out to Erin at [enoon@willcountygreen.com](mailto:enoon@willcountygreen.com). Presentation topics

include the topics of Recycling, Vermicomposting, Alternative Energy, Toward Zero Waste, Water Conservation, or Monarch Butterflies.

The educational presentation can also be a first step in your "Earth Flag" journey. This program encourages classrooms, schools, and groups to receive points towards earning special recognition and a 3' x 5' Earth Flag.

Scan to learn more



## Grandparents Day

Will County seniors, take a break and join us to celebrate Grandparents Day! This event will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the Romeoville Athletic and Event Center. Take some time for yourself and join us for a celebration for Will County grandparents and seniors! Enjoy bingo, Mahjong, and community resources.

**RSVP is REQUIRED | Call to Register at (815) 723-9713.**

**Address of Romeoville Athletic and Event Center:**  
55 Phelps Ave, Romeoville, IL 60446

