



# LIGHT UP THE *Holidays* PARADE

Will County was well-represented at the Light Up the Holidays Parade in downtown Joliet, with volunteers from the Office of County Executive and county departments kicking off the holiday season! County Executive Bertino-Tarrant, county staff, and residents from Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County passed out candy to residents along the parade route. This annual tradition attracts hundreds of residents from Joliet and surrounding communities.

A special thank you to the volunteers at the Will County Emergency Management Agency for building a "Welcome to Whoville" float!



 WILL COUNTY  
**EXECUTIVE**  
JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT

As we approach the Holidays and the new year, I am very grateful for all we have been able to accomplish in 2022. This has been a great year for Will County, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2023.

While celebrating the holidays, we can't forget that it's also the Season of Giving. Winter is a challenging time for many in our community, especially as the temperatures drop. Whether it's your local food pantry or shelter, the holidays are an excellent time to check in with community organizations on high-priority items that are needed for donations.

Please also consider taking the time to check in on your neighbors during extreme cold weather. Most municipalities offer warming centers for residents who are experiencing issues with properly heating their homes. A full list of warming centers can be found on the Will County Emergency Management Agency's website.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Holiday Season!

  
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive

## STRING LIGHT RECYCLING

Will County is offering recycling drop-off locations for holiday string lights throughout December and January. Offered by the Will County Resource Recovery and Energy Division, these drop-off locations allow residents to responsibly recycle string lights that would otherwise spend decades decomposing in local landfills.

Residents are welcome to drop off string lights at the various collection carts inside the office entrances of the following locations in Joliet during regular business hours

String lights are also accepted at Will County's eight electronics collection sites year-round.



[LEARN MORE](#)

**County Office Building**  
3012 N. Chicago St.

**Land Use Building**  
58 E. Clinton St.

**Sunny Hill Nursing Home**  
421 Doris Ave.

# 30 YEARS OF 9-1-1 IN WILL COUNTY



County Executive Bertino-Tarrant and the Will County Board recognized the 30th anniversary of the county's Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) at the Dec. 15th Board meeting. The ETSB was the first unified 9-1-1 system for the county, replacing 16 separate systems managed by local governments.

Creating a unified system made it easier for telecommunications staff to save more lives and to increase the public's confidence in the local emergency response system. The current system serves approximately 697,000 residents and visitors to Will County. In 2021, the system has answered 327,000 calls for service - 27,000 a month. Thank you to front-line telecommunicators for your dedication to service and our residents!



Will County is increasing its focus on attracting green industries to the local economy, putting local communities at the forefront of the clean jobs revolution. County-wide elected leaders and local stakeholders have been working on several initiatives to attract the clean energy industry, including energy storage and transportation.

A significant example is the Will County Board recently voting to allow for battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas, empowering a trending clean energy industry to grow in Will County. Battery energy storage facilities store energy produced by renewable energy sources during periods of low-cost or over-production, to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power.

This zoning amendment makes Will County one of the first local governments in Illinois to allow for these facilities. Companies specializing in energy storage are projected to grow following the 2021 State of Illinois Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, which calls for the state to move towards 100% clean energy by the year 2050. The State of Illinois has also initiated a Coal-to-Solar Energy Storage Grants Program to provide incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants.



## WARMING CENTERS IN WILL COUNTY

With cold weather expected to hit Northern Illinois hard soon, communities throughout Will County have made Warming Centers available to the public.

There are warming centers available in almost every municipality in the county, including in village halls, fire stations, libraries, or other public meeting sites. Since many of these locations are open upon request, residents should contact the shelter to ensure availability.

The Will County Emergency Management Agency and the GIS Division maintain a list and interactive map to help residents find access to the nearest center.

[VIEW FULL LIST OF WARMING CENTERS](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



## WILL COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

[WATCH NOW](#)

Congratulations to Sabrina Justice for being named the 2022 Telecommunicator of the Year for both the Laraway Communications Center (LCC) and all of Will County by the Emergency Telephone System Board!

Sabrina has been credited in saving the lives of at least five Will County residents, including a police officer, during her time as a 9-1-1 telecommunicator with LCC. She also recently received the "Stork Award" for delivering her first baby over the phone.

Thank you to Sabrina and all of our Will County telecommunicators for your hard work and dedication!