



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



**JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT**

**WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Earlier this month, I joined Governor Pritzker, Senators Duckworth and Durbin, Joliet Mayor D'Arcy, and many other officials to celebrate the grand opening of Lion Electric's new 900,000 square-foot facility in Joliet. This facility is a major development in our community and solidifies Will County's role as a nationwide clean energy leader.

The facility, which produces electric school busses, is now the largest electric vehicle manufacturing plant in the US for medium and heavy-duty commercial vehicles. It also is the first vehicle assembly plant that has opened in Chicagoland in over 50 years. I'm thankful that Lion Electric is investing in our region, creating hundreds of high-quality jobs.

Will County is rapidly becoming an emerging leader in the green economy. We are well-positioned for attracting a variety of clean energy industries due to our many economic assets, including a talented workforce, prominent location, quality education system, and strong infrastructure. I will

Scan to  
learn more



continue working closely with the Will County Center for Economic Development and other local partners to attract more high-quality, green jobs to Will County.

These ongoing efforts to diversify our local economy coincide with several other efforts to ensure that our county is moving towards a greener future. This includes an effort by my office to develop an Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan that will help us prepare for a transition to zero emission vehicles. Our county also operates one of two Renewable Natural Gas plants in Illinois, which repurposes landfill gas to create clean transportation fuel for transportation vehicles. Our plant provides a significant source of non-tax revenue for the county by selling a carbon-neutral alternative to conventional natural gas.

This is an exciting time for Will County and I look forward to keeping you updated on these initiatives!

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive

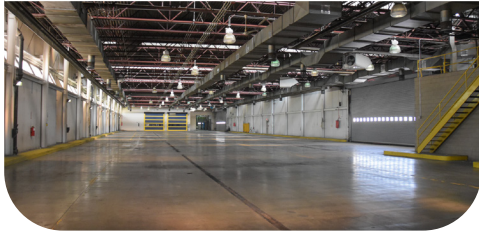


## Will County Pet Clinic A Success

Hundreds of happy dogs received important vaccinations and microchips at the Will County Pet Clinic in Bolingbrook on Saturday, July 8. This event was made possible thanks to the partnership between K9 Enrichment Initiative, PetCo Love Foundation, Mayor Mary Alexander-Basta, and City of Bolingbrook for partnering with the Will County Executive to host this event.

Microchips are a safe and easy way for shelters or animal hospitals to find your pet if lost or stolen. Vaccinating pets not only help them maintain their health, but also help prevent diseases that can be passed between animals and humans. Unvaccinated pets can also be infected with diseases prevalent in wildlife, such as rabies and distemper.

Will County Executive Bertino-Tarrant is committed to helping residents access vaccines and microchips for their pets. Keep an eye out for the next pop-up pet vaccine clinic! Follow the Will County Executive office on social media for news and announcements on future pop-up pet vaccine clinics.



## Two New Will County Facilities

The Will County Executive Office has announced two significant additions to the County's facility inventory.

On July 18, county officials cut the ribbon on the new, state-of-the-art Will County Coroner's Office located at the Public Safety Complex on W. Laraway Road in Joliet. The facility consolidates the operations of the Coroner's Office into one location, providing a more efficient layout for staff.

The County Executive Office oversaw the construction of the facility, working closely with Coroner Laurie Summers and staff to ensure that the project met their needs and was completed on-time and on-budget. The design utilizes industry best practices and has already been ranked in the top five designs nationally by a leading architectural firm that specializes in coroner facilities.

Additionally, Will County has purchased Pace Suburban Bus's maintenance facility located in downtown Joliet at 9 Osgood Street. Pace vacated the space in October 2022 and sold it to Will County for \$1.00 to ensure that the facility would still be utilized as a space that benefits the public. The County Executive office is working with several offices who are interested in relocating to the space after renovations, ensuring that county operations remain based in downtown Joliet.



## Plenty to do in Will County

Summer is in full swing and there's no shortage of options for attending community events. Please consider checking in with local governments and community organizations on a weekly basis to find opportunities to engage with your community and take advantage of local services.

Community events are not only a fun way to spend an evening and weekend. Many offer important services to residents, such as "Back to School" fairs that provide free school supplies or ShareFest Will County giveaways that distribute free food to residents in need.

A sampling of events around the county is below, but be sure to monitor the websites and social media channels of your municipality, library, and park district to learn more about what is happening in your community.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 29 | 10AM-1PM**

**State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel and State Representative Natalie Manley Back to School Fair** - University of St. Francis, St. Clare Campus - 1550 Plainfield Rd., Joliet, IL

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**

**National Night Out** - Celebrated in many communities to bring law enforcement and neighbors together - Options in: Aurora, Beecher, Crest Hill, Crete, Elwood, Frankfort, Joliet, Minooka, Mokena, Naperville, New Lenox, Orland Park, Park Forest, Plainfield, Romeoville, Shorewood, Steger, Tinley Park, and University Park

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 | 5PM - 8PM**

**Troy CCSD 30-C Back-to-School Resource Fair** - 5800 Theodore St. Plainfield IL

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 | 9AM - 1PM**

**Wilmington ShareFest** - Wilmington High School - 208 Wildcat Ct.

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 | 9AM - 12PM**

**FOP4Kids School Supply Giveaway** - Will County Office Building, 302 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL

### **AUGUST 23 - 27**

**Will County Fair** - 710 S West St, Peotone, IL



# Staying Cool and Healthy

With summer heat in full swing, the Will County Emergency Management Agency (Will County EMA) is reminding residents to stay safe and to be prepared for periods of extreme heat and humidity. Excessive heat is the nation’s top weather-related health risk and it’s important to take precautionary measures before hot weather.

Heat-related illnesses, including heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke can occur in both outdoor and indoor settings. Extreme heat can be particularly hazardous for children, seniors, those with special needs, and pets.


The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the following list of warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses:

- Heat Cramp Symptoms:** Painful muscle cramps/spasms usually in legs and abdomen; heavy sweating.
- Heat Exhaustion Symptoms:** Heavy sweating, weakness of tiredness, cool, pale, clammy skin; fast, weak pulse, muscle cramps, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, headache, fainting.
- Heat Stroke Symptoms:** Throbbing headache, confusion, dizziness, body temperature above 103°F, hot red, dry or damp skin, rapid and strong pulse, fainting, loss of consciousness.

Educate yourself on how to tell the difference between heat-related illnesses, and in advance of the severe heat expected this week, residents should also be aware of the following tips:

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, and lightweight clothing.
- Avoid strenuous activity during mid-day.
- Limit direct sunlight, both outside and inside.
- Hydrate with water, not caffeinated or alcoholic beverages.
- Use awnings or curtains to deflect the sun.
- Fans will move air around, but do not lower your temperature.
- Use air conditioning inside your home or visit an air-conditioned location.
- Check in with relatives and neighbors on if they have access to air conditioning.
- Never leave children or pets in a vehicle.

Residents should also be aware of the cooling centers available in almost every community in the county, including in village halls, fire stations, libraries or other public meeting sites. For a full list of cooling centers, scan the QR code.




GUEST SPOTLIGHT  
**MICHAEL W. FRERICHS**  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

# Unclaimed Property

As Illinois Treasurer, I’m the state’s Chief Investment and Banking Officer. Every dollar I earn in interest is a dollar that doesn’t need to be raised in taxes, and I’ve earned more than \$2 billion on your behalf since taking office.

I’ve also got another important job, and that’s returning unclaimed property to you. My office runs the I-Cash program, which safeguards unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards until they can be returned to their rightful owner. It’s often a surprise for people to find out they have an overlooked investment account or final paycheck they forgot to grab. We aim to rectify that oversight, and it’s easier than ever to do. This money and property belong to the people of Illinois. It should be in their pocketbook rather than the state’s safe.

We’re holding more than \$171 million in unclaimed cash and property for Will County residents. There are more than 1 million unclaimed properties in Will County.

Visit [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH) to enter your name and find out if unclaimed property is waiting for you. We encourage you to check the unclaimed property database twice each year, as thousands of items are turned over to the state every year. Set up a reminder on your smart phone’s calendar or fire up your computer and do a search when you change your smoke detector batteries every six months.