



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2023



## JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Empowering our county-wide workforce remains a priority for county government. This includes ensuring that our residents have easy access to high-paying careers that support a positive quality of life. A trained, qualified workforce is also key to supporting our county's historic level of economic growth.

This has been an exciting month for promoting workforce services, and I'm happy to be spotlighting some of those updates in this newsletter. First and foremost, the Will County Heroes Nursing & Teaching Scholarship. This \$10 million investment in our future nurses and teachers may very well be one of the most impactful allocations of the county's American Rescue Plan Act funds. The goal of this scholarship is to foster the next generation of heroes and incentivize newly trained nursing and teaching graduates to work in Will County communities after graduation. I am very appreciative of our higher education partners who are participating in this program.

Additionally, our Workforce Services Division hosted its first "Pathways to Professions Expo" to help connect local high school students with future career opportunities. The Expo invited over 700 students to explore careers and have conversations with representatives from a wide variety of industries and professions throughout the county. Events like this are critical to offering perspective and ideas for students as they consider their next steps.

These are two visible examples of Will County's ongoing efforts to support the workforce of tomorrow. If you're interested in a potential career change, or you're an employer seeking to hire new employees or "upskill" your current workforce, please learn about the resources of the Workforce Center of Will County at <https://will.works>.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



## Nursing & Teaching Scholarship Applications Now Open

Will County is investing \$10 million of American Rescue Plan Act dollars to ignite the next generation of heroes in nursing and teaching!

Will County Heroes will encourage students to pursue degrees in the high-demand professions of teaching and nursing at four of the county's higher education partners, Governors State University, University of St. Francis, Lewis University, and Joliet Junior College.

A primary goal of the program is to incentivize teaching and nursing graduates to grow their career in Will County. The program aims to create an active pipeline to employers throughout the county after graduation. Pipeline partners support students as they grow their career after graduation, connecting them with a working environment that fosters positive career development.

Will County Heroes strives to address shortages in the teaching and nursing profession, which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible students include those pursuing teacher certification for elementary education, special education, and secondary education, along with students interested in becoming a Registered Nurse, either through a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or an Associates Degree in Nursing.

**Now is the time to become an education and healthcare hero!**



## Will County Pet Clinic Vaccinates Over 250 Dogs and Cats

Will County hosted a pop-up pet clinic in Downtown Joliet on March 11. The clinic, which vaccinated and microchipped over 250 local cats and dogs, was hosted by County Executive Bertino-Tarrant, State's Attorney Jim Glasgow, and K9 Enrichment Initiative (K9EI).

Free vaccines were provided by Petco Love as part of their national vaccination initiative to provide one million free pet vaccines to animal welfare partners for family pets in need. Volunteers with K9EI also distributed 100 bags of pet food, 84 pet waste scoopers, and 187 gift bags. Supplies were donated by Rescue Pack, FiNano, and Max & Neo.

Animal shelters throughout the county have reported increases in pick-ups in recent years, underscoring the importance of universal microchipping for pets. Unvaccinated animals being brought into shelters can also contribute to disease outbreaks.



## Students Experience Career Options at Pathways to Professions

Giving students a unique glimpse into the wide variety of local employers and industries, the Pathways to Professions Expo connected over 700 high school students with nearly 80 vendors that spotlighted their career options.

The event was organized by the Workforce Center of Will County to offer career options for students as they plan for their future. From virtual reality experiences to informative discussions, the expo allowed for junior- and senior-year students to directly connect with industry representatives.

While the event was focused on giving guidance, ideas, and perspective to high school students, it also was opened to the public during the second part of day 2 for adults who might be interested in a job or career change.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success, including sponsors, on-site volunteers, participating high schools, vendors, and the Village of Romeoville!



## Drop-Off Recycling Event (appointments are required)

**Location: Chicagoland Speedway/  
Route 66 Raceway**

Collection of nearly all types of electronics and household chemicals, hazardous materials, liquids, wood, scrap metal, foam, and donations of clothing, books, toys, and cookware. There is a limit of two TVs per vehicle, 15 gallons of paint, and an ID is required. Services are offered to all Will County residents and all residents of any communities partially within Will County.

**Pack your vehicle to UNLOAD in this order:**

- Electronics
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Foam Plastic (Styrofoam)
- Scrap Metal
- Scrap Wood
- Textiles/Clothing/Home Goods/Toys
- Books/Worn American Flags/ Food
- Appointments are taken through Friday, March 31st, at 9AM



GUEST SPOTLIGHT > **LAUREN STALEY-FERRY | WILL COUNTY CLERK**

## Early Voting Reminders

Early Voting is underway for the April 4 Consolidated Election. As your County Clerk, I wanted to remind residents of Early Voting opportunities and procedures so you can be prepared to cast your vote in the upcoming election.

Early Voting for the April 4 Consolidated Election expands to 25 locations across Will County beginning Monday, March 20. Early Voting hours vary depending on location and may include weekend and evening hours as Election Day draws near.

You may register to vote on election day by bringing two forms of ID (one must have a current address) to an Early Voting location. If you register on election day you MUST cast your ballot during that visit.