



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The holiday season is officially underway in Will County! As we prepare to gather with friends, family, and loved ones to celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we should take a moment to appreciate the good memories made, moments lived, and all of the people who've impacted our lives throughout the year.

It's fitting that we celebrate Thanksgiving in the same month as Veterans Day, a time to give thanks and recognition to those who served. Will County is home to over 27,000 veterans, and I was pleased to see over 20 events throughout the county celebrating and recognizing current and former service members.

One way that county offices are showing support for veterans and their families is by once again participating in "Operation Green Light". This nationwide initiative shines a light on the needs of our veterans and their families, and we are proudly illuminating the Courthouse, County Office Building, and Sunny Hill Nursing Home throughout November. I hope that all residents take this month as an opportunity to reflect on how we can continue to support our veteran communities throughout the year.

I hope you and your loved ones have a happy, safe and heartfelt Thanksgiving!

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



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Operation Green Light

Will County is proud to participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans throughout November by illuminating county buildings in green, including the Will County Courthouse, Sunny Hill Nursing Home, and Will County Office Building.

Operation Green Light shines a light on the service of our veterans and their families, raising awareness of the challenges they face and the resources available to assist them and their families at the county, state, and federal levels. Join us in shining a green light for veterans throughout the month!



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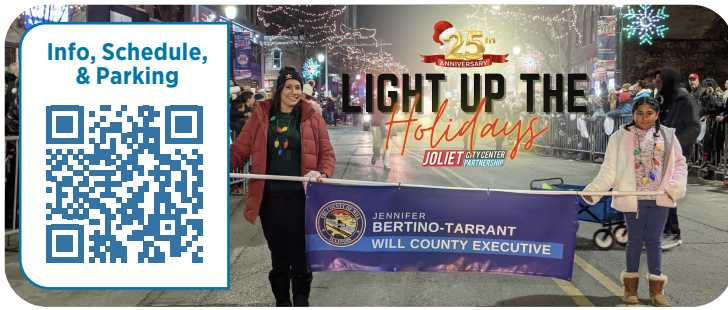
Construction Begins on New Children's Advocacy Center Building

Construction has begun on the future home of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The Executive Office is overseeing renovation work at the 1.5 story building, which will provide a child-focused setting designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and neutral space for the CAC's important work.

The new building, located at 1206 Cedarwood in Crest Hill, is a former daycare facility that was acquired by the county in June of this year. The space includes a variety of assets that will support CAC operations and provide opportunities for expansion, including a fenced area for therapy dogs, a playground, and several private rooms for sensitive interviews.

The building offers a quiet, welcoming environment, with adequate parking for employees and visitors. With an additional 20,000 square-feet of space, the new CAC Building offers an opportunity for the CAC and State's Attorney's Office to explore possible service expansions in the future.

The CAC was founded in 1995 by State's Attorney James Glasgow as a child-focused, coordinated response center to provide hope, healing and justice for children who have endured severe physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, and exposure to violence.



Light Up the Holidays!

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant is proud to help kick off Joliet’s “Light Up The Holidays” Parade! The parade steps off at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 24 and takes place in downtown Joliet. Our office will once again be partnering with the Emergency Management Agency to celebrate the holiday season.

The first floor of the County Office Building (302 N. Chicago St.) will be open to the public before and during the parade, with hot chocolate and restrooms available for the general public.

Other events scheduled for the day include an artificial ice skating rink and kiddie ferris wheel across from the Rialto theater from 1:30-5:30 p.m., and the tree lighting ceremony will take place at 5:15 p.m.



AIR FILTER DISTRIBUTION

EMA Supports Statewide Effort to Improve Classroom Air Quality

The Will County’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) recently partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois to improve classroom air quality by sending more than 50,000 packages of air purifiers, filters, and antigen tests to schools across the state

The packages are part of an impact study being conducted through a grant from Shield Illinois to analyze the health and academic benefits of having better respiratory air filters in classrooms. The study will take about two years to complete and produce data and results of its findings.

The EMA response facility served as the staging area for roughly 75-85% of packages distributed statewide, including to Will County schools. Will County volunteers received, processed, and prepared the packages for distribution.



Feedback Welcome on the Future of Wilmington-Peotone Road

The Will County Division of Transportation (DOT) is holding two open house public meetings for area residents about the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study for Wilmington-Peotone Road. The project is looking to gather input and evaluate alternatives prior to implementing a plan to develop the corridor so it can handle travel demand in a safe manner to support the economic vitality of the county.

Exhibits are open to the public during the designated time, and project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions.

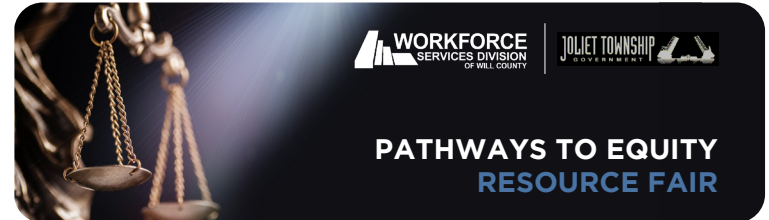
All public meeting materials and an electronic survey will be available at www.wilmingtonpeotonestudy.com on December 6 for those unable to attend.

December 6 | 4PM – 7PM
Wilmington City Hall

1165 S Water St
Wilmington, IL 60481

December 13 | 4PM – 7 PM
Peotone High School

605 W North St
Peotone, IL 60468



Will County to Host “Pathways to Equity”

Will County’s Workforce Services Division is partnering with Joliet Township to host a “Pathways to Equity” Resource Fair on Thursday, November 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Workforce Center of Will County, 2400 Glenwood Ave. in Joliet.

The event is for individuals impacted by the justice system and is free to attend. A wide array of justice-related services will be available, such as legal aid, mental health services, and educational workshops.

Please register in advance for this resource fair by scanning the qr code.

