



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Earlier this year, I shared with you that my office has been working with the newly formed Will County Community Mental Health Board to ensure that they have the necessary resources to accomplish their important mission. The Board was formed after Will County voters approved the creation of a new levy dedicated to directly funding local mental health services. Voters clearly saw that there was a need in our community for increased mental health services, including for substance use, disability services, and veteran care.

I'm happy to share with you now that the Will County Board has approved a budget for the Community Mental Health Board, empowering a \$10 Million-dollar investment into local mental health resources. This funding will be utilized to award grants to community organizations throughout the county who are near a breaking point as the demand for their services have increased in recent years. We saw this need first-hand when we opened applications for our American Rescue Plan Act funding. Although we only had \$16 Million-dollars available for mental health services, we received \$94 Million-dollars in request from local organizations.

Ensuring access to quality mental health services has been a top priority for Will County government over the last two years. This increase in funding for local services will offer relief for our hard-working community organizations and the thousands of residents who are in need of support. I look forward to continuing to work with the new board as they identify how best to allocate this new funding.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



Share Your Thoughts!

The Will County Executive Office has launched the Will County Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan, which is working to prepare communities, businesses, and residents for the increased demand of electric and alternative fuel vehicles. Public input is critical for this effort to be successful. Residents can share their thoughts on and experience with alternative fuel vehicles by taking a brief survey.

The Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan is part of ongoing efforts to identify more sustainable and cleaner transportation options for readiness. As the first county-wide plan of its kind in Illinois, it will evaluate the future infrastructure needs for electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

Public input will help identify infrastructure needs, including where charging stations and other items would make the most impact for residents, visitors, and businesses.

Take the survey at www.willcountyaltfuels.com!

The website also includes information on the project, educational resources, and feedback opportunities throughout the project. Your involvement and contributions are greatly appreciated, and we thank you for being an essential part of our "Fueling Our Future" journey!



Facilities Team Wins Big at "Men Who Cook"

Our Will County Facilities Department team were BIG WINNERS at this year's "Men Who Cook" fundraising event for the Will County Children's Advocacy Center. They placed FIRST in the dessert category for the entire event, and SECOND in presentation.

The event took place on Saturday, October 21 and was hosted by Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow as a fundraising event for the Will County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). This is the event's 13th year, raising over \$80,000 to support the important work of the CAC. Founded in 1995, the CAC works to provide hope, healing, and justice for children who have endured severe physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect and exposure to violence.



Bake Sale, Holiday Gifts, and Lunch Bazaar for Sunny Hill

Friday October 27th | 10AM - 3PM

The Friends of Sunny Hill will hold its annual Sunshine Holiday Gift Show and BBQ Luncheon this Friday, October 27 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Will County's Sunny Hill Nursing Home, 421 Doris Avenue in Joliet.

Bring your holiday shopping list and appetite! The event will feature a bake sale, craft show and BBQ luncheon, and benefits The Friends of Sunny Hill, a non-profit organization that assists in "friend-raising" and fundraising to provide the highest quality of life for residents of the Will County-owned and operated Sunny Hill Nursing Home.

For more information, call Karen at (815) 347-2309 or email sunnyhillfriends@gmail.com.

Barn Cat Adoption Program

The Will County Animal Control Department has launched a new program with the intention of placing adult feral and semi-feral cats on agricultural properties in and around Will County. The Barn Cat Adoption Program, also referred to as "Whiskers at Work," is open to anyone who lives or works on agricultural-zoned property. It provides a home for cats who would not traditionally do well in a household pet setting and provides year-round rodent and pest control support for farm owners.



According to Will County Animal Control Administrator Anna Payton, the cats that are part of the Whiskers at Work program wouldn't make good 'indoor cats' in traditional household settings: "Most of these cats are not used to contact with humans and would not be happy as house cats. With this program, residents are allowing them to live their best lives, where they can serve a fulfilling purpose hunting invasive barn rodents in our agricultural areas."

Adoption fees are waived by Will County Animal Control once an applicant is accepted through the Whiskers at Work program. Whiskers at Work's barn cats are spayed/neutered, up-to-date on vaccines, tested for Feluk/FIV, microchipped, and ear-notched.

People who are interested in learning more can reach out to Will County Animal Control at (815)462-5633 or accontrol@willcountyillinois.com. In order to be eligible, the person requesting to be considered for the program must live or work on agricultural-zoned property and be the owner of the property the barn cat will be deployed.

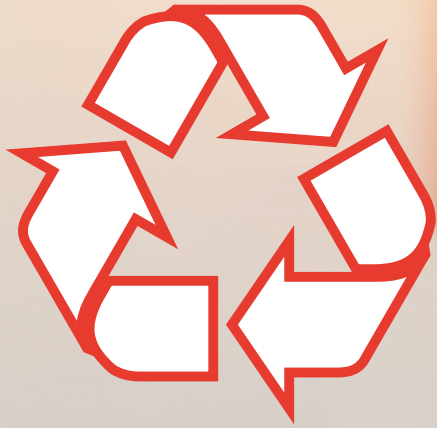
[Learn more](#)



Will County Community Care Fair

The Will County Executive Office is partnering with Christ Pantry in Joliet to host a Community Care Fair on Saturday November 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (402 Singleton Place, Joliet, IL 60436). The event will offer free health screenings and flu shots, along with information on enrolling in a variety of healthcare programs and services. Free turkeys and produce will also be available, while supplies last

The event is open to all Will County residents and no appointment is required.



Fire Extinguisher Recycling Now Available

The Will County Land Use Department's Resource Recovery and Energy (RRE) Division has now added fire extinguishers to its list of services for items to recycle.

Expired extinguishers or those that appear to be damaged can be recycled year-round at the following three locations during their designated times:

New Lenox | New Lenox Township Office

1100 S Cedar Rd, New Lenox, IL

Monday-Friday: 1-3 p.m.

4th Saturday of every month:

8 a.m.-noon

Peotone | The Village of Peotone

208 E Main St, Peotone, IL

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Naperville | Wheatland Township

4232 Tower Ct, Naperville, IL

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Will County's recycling partner is Integrity Fire Equipment of Joliet, and both residents and businesses with unwanted extinguishers are welcome to recycle them at one of the above locations.

For information on types of extinguishers and a reminder on how to properly use and/or discharge an extinguisher, visit Will County's landing page on the topic click below.

[Learn more](#)

