



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT



WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As you may have seen, several libraries in our region experienced bomb threats this month. These threats resulted in evacuations, service disruptions, and distress for both library staff and members of the public who seek to use these hubs of learning in peace.

I'm saddened that this is something that our libraries continue to face. Our libraries serve as a critical community resource, providing a safe space for education, ideas, and services for all ages. Now, more than ever, we need to stand with our libraries.

While it can be depressing to see these threats continue throughout our state, there are things that we all can do to support our local libraries. Please consider taking a small step to thank library staff and volunteers. Whether it's checking out a book, thanking a librarian, or sharing support for your library online, these expressions of support can go a long way to ensure our libraries are receiving positive supported. Also, renew your library card if you haven't already!

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive

ARPA Funding Supporting 21 Will County Library Districts

As part of Will County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, \$1.2 million in grant opportunities have been awarded to local libraries. This crucial funding supports ongoing efforts to expand service and address needs from 21 Will County library districts.

The ARPA funding is supporting library projects that were deferred during the COVID-19 Pandemic, when libraries faced an increased demand in remote and digital services. Projects include expanding access to remote and digital services, new smart lockers, and 24/7 pick-up/drop-off options.

Four of these smart locker projects are also being used to expand service into Will County communities that currently do not have a library branch, with \$195,000 in grant funding supporting expansion efforts by the Aurora Public Library, Fossil Ridge Public Library, Fountaindale Public Library, and Manhattan-Ellwood Public Library.

These service expansions also include a \$269,000 grant allocation to the Joliet Public Library to purchase a customized bookmobile and outreach vehicle. This mobile library will reach areas without access to a branch, such as the East side of Joliet. The vehicle's physical and digital book inventory will be customized based on the community it is serving. It will also serve as a hub for library services, including library cards, material check-outs and returns, and free Wi-Fi.



ELEVATE
WILL COUNTY
 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

\$1.2 Million Awarded
21 Local Libraries

Learn more



Of the 21 library districts receiving grant funding, eight have already been completed. This includes Naperville Public Library's expanded digital content, New Lenox Public Library's health-focused renovations, and White Oak Library District's replacement of all 150 public computers used at all three of its locations.

Will County is standing with its libraries!



PET EXPO

Sat., Sept. 30 | 11am-1pm



Join Us In Plainfield!
Clow Stephens Park
16650 S Lily Cache Rd, Plainfield



Pet Expo

Calling all pets! Tell your humans that you're invited to attend a Pet Expo in Plainfield on Saturday, September 30 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant is partnering with State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, State Representative Natalie Manley, and the Plainfield Park District to host this event.

Stop by and bring your pets for a variety of photo opportunities, training demonstrations, and other activities. Face painting and temporary tattoos will be available for children, and many local pet businesses and service providers will have booths with unique pet products and information on resources available in Will County.

Location: Clow Stephens Park, 16650 S. Lily Cache Rd, Plainfield, IL 60586

Date: Saturday, September 30 | **Time:** 11 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Will County Launches Public Survey on Affordable Fuels

The Will County Executive office is launching the Will County Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan, which will prepare our communities for the growing demand for vehicles powered by alternative fuels from residents, visitors, and businesses. The plan will serve as a roadmap for local governments and businesses as they plan for meeting this demand.

Public input will be critical for the success of this effort. As part of a stakeholder engagement and public involvement strategy, a survey has been launched to collect public input on alternative fuels and electric vehicles. Please share your thoughts by taking the survey at www.willcountyaltfuels.com.

Will County remains a leader in the green economy and clean energies. This plan will be the first countywide alternative fuels readiness plan in the State of Illinois. Strategies developed



through this plan will not only help to meet practical immediate needs, such as identifying where charging stations are most needed, but also help make meaningful progress to support the County in maintaining economic competitiveness, improving local air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from traditional fuel sources, and limiting the country's dependence on fossil fuels. .

Will County Recognizes Workforce Development Month

September was Workforce Development Month, and we would like to thank all of the amazing staff at Will County's Workforce Services Division for their hard work and dedication to our residents and patrons at the Workforce Center of Will County.

Workforce Development Month is a nationwide celebration established by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals to bring together leading business, labor, education and other critical partners with an opportunity to showcase workforce programs, facilities and program participants so that job seekers can learn more about the benefits of workforce development programs.



Our Workforce Services Division provides free services to both job seekers and businesses throughout the year. They also oversee a youth program to help young people aged 17-24 find the career opportunity that works for them.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for a few important events happening soon in Will County — including a Job Fair, Local Housing Provider Workshop and Veteran’s Day Ceremony!



Job Fair

Are you a Will County resident looking for work? Join us for the opportunity to meet local employers and apply for available positions!

Location

Plainfield Central High School
24120 W. Fort Beggs Dr, Plainfield, IL 60544

For

High school students looking for a part-time job, and public job seekers.

Date

Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Time

12:00 - 2:00 PM (Students)
2:30 - 4:00 PM (Public)



Local Housing Provider Workshop

Local Housing Providers & Landlords: Learn from expert panelists about recent changes to state statutes, fair housing training, and information about client services and program providers.

Location

Clarion Hotel & Banquet Center
411 S. Larkin Ave, Joliet, IL 60436

Date/Time 1

Thursday, October 12, 2023
6 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Date/Time 2

Friday, October 13, 2023
9 A.M. – noon



Save the Date

Veteran’s Day Ceremony

The Will County Executive Office is partnering with the Veterans Assistance Commission to show our thanks to Will County Veterans.

Location

TBD

Date

Friday, November 10, 2023

Time

TBD

STOP Track Tragedies

The County Executive Office joined our Division of Transportation and Emergency Management Agency to wear red as part of Operation Lifesaver’s initiative to “#StopTrackTragedies”.

The goal of Rail Safety Week is to bring awareness and education to anyone that might find themselves near railroad tracks. Over 95% of all railroad fatalities resulted from rail grade crossing and pedestrian trespass incidents, according to current Federal Railroad Administration data.

