



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Residents,

I was glad to host a Presidents' Day Kids' Fair at Troy Middle School, offering a free, family-fun activity for kids on their day off. This was my 10th time hosting this event and I'm always pleased to see hundreds of local families attending to connect with their community.

I'm also very thankful to the vendors who provide educational and interactive materials for the children and families. Also, thank you to Troy School District who opened its doors to host the event. I'm committed to continuing to work throughout the year to connect residents with local services at events throughout the county.

As February comes to a close, I would also like to take a moment to highlight the importance of recognizing and celebrating Black History Month. This annual commemoration serves as an opportunity to embrace the stories of African American history at the local, state, and national levels. These stories surround us here in Will County and often go unnoticed.

Whether it's the high-profile visits to the county by Frederick Douglass in the 1850's and Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965, or the critical role that Will County played in the Underground Railroad (such as the historic Congregational Church in Crete), the rich tapestry of black history is prominent in all our communities.

I appreciate the efforts of so many local historical institutions to spotlight these stories during both February and throughout the year.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



WHEN SECONDS MATTER

PUBLIC PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Public Preparedness Seminar to be Hosted in Plainfield

Will County Emergency Management Agency is hosting its second public preparedness workshop on March 22 in Plainfield. The workshop, titled "When Second Matter: Public Preparedness Workshop," is a free event designed to enhance disaster readiness and resilience by bringing together community members, emergency professionals, and experts to share vital knowledge on severe weather, fraud prevention, and disaster preparedness.

Sessions the workshop aims to cover include reviewing and analyzing the 1990 Plainfield tornado, modern-day forecasting and severe weather detection, practical strategies for decision-making under pressure, recognizing and preventing disaster-related scams, and first-hand accounts of emergency response efforts following the July 2024 Ranch Oaks tornado.

Attendees can also visit exhibit tables and connect with local volunteer organizations. A light lunch will be provided by The Salvation Army. This event is focused on ages 12 and up. Registration is required and seats are limited. To register or for more information, visit the link below.

Public Preparedness Workshop: www.willcountyeema.org





IMAGINATION CELEBRATION

Imagination Library Kick-Off Event Draws a Crowd

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Will County held its kickoff event in January, attracting hundreds of local residents interested in celebrating and learning more about the literacy program. Attendees participated in raffles, dressed in iconic Dolly get-ups, and stuck around to watch a showing of the 1980s film "9 to 5", starring Dolly Parton! Over \$26,000 was raised at the event - a significant step closer to the \$150,000 goal to bring Imagination Library to Will County.

Thank you to the Rialto Square Theatre for hosting the event, the generous sponsors and donors, and the dedicated volunteers who made this an unforgettable celebration of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program will make a real impact in the lives of children throughout Will County, and we're one step closer to fully launching!

Interested in helping Imagination Library of Will County?

- **Donate:** Make an individual or recurring donation. Every \$16 sponsors a child to receive one year of free books!
- **Volunteer:** Join the countywide literacy network dedicated to establishing and operating the program.
- **Connect:** Sign up for the wait-list and be the first to know when enrollment launches!

For more information on the program and how you can help, visit the link below.

[Learn More: willcountyillinois.org/imagination-library](http://willcountyillinois.org/imagination-library)

Women's Day Blood Drive

In honor of International Women's Day, the Will County Executive Office is joining with State Representatives Natalie Manley and Dee Avelar, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, and the American Red Cross to host a blood drive.

The blood drive aims to address the ongoing need for blood donations and highlights the importance of women's health. In addition to saving a life, donors will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card and their blood can be screened for diabetes at no additional cost.

The International Women's Day Blood Drive will take place at the American Red Cross Training Room (1293 Windham Parkway, Romeoville) on Monday, March 10 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Help us reach the goal of donating 30 units of blood from the event! Appointments are required. Visit the link below to view availability and schedule an appointment.

Make Appointment: redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=RepManley

