



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



JENNIFER
BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Residents,

I had the opportunity this month to deliver the annual State of the County Address, where I spotlighted Will County's positive trajectory and outlined goals for the year.

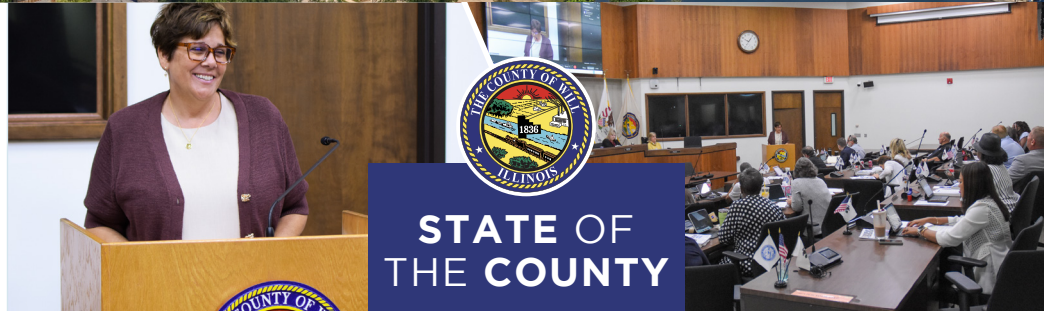
Will County continues to have a growing population and strong economy. We're leading the state in many areas, including population growth, job creation, and single-family home construction. Our vibrant and thriving communities are attracting families and businesses.

All economic indicators lead to Will County, and we need to capitalize on this growth to drive success in all corners of the county. This economic growth makes a difference in people's lives, by reducing tax rates, increasing local employment, connecting residents with better retail options, and lessening the challenges that come with unemployment or underemployment.

In my speech, I focused on steps we're taking in county government to responsibly prepare for this growth. This includes modernizing how we do business, improving access through future-focused infrastructure investments, and strengthening our ability to provide services to residents in all corners of the county. Below you'll find a brief recap of these steps and other accomplishments from the year.

We have much to be proud of as a county and we are taking steps to build on the progress we have made. I'm looking forward to another year of working to empower continued success and keeping Will County strong!

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



"A Period of Great Opportunity and Growth for Will County"

County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant delivered her annual State of the County and Budget Address on August 21, spotlighting the growing Will County economy and continued efforts by county government to improve services for residents.

"During a period of great opportunity and growth for Will County, our role as county leaders is to empower continued success, address needs that impact the region, and provide services that meet the needs of our large and diverse county. We must rise to the occasion to offer residents the services they deserve during a period of historic growth." -County Executive Bertino-Tarrant.

Her address emphasized how Will County's continued population and economic growth is driving success in communities throughout the county, citing how Will County remains the top county in Illinois for population growth, job creation, and single-family home construction.

The address also highlighted efforts to respond to an increasing demand for county services, including modernizing government, increasing internal efficiencies, and making it easier for residents to access services through the growing digitization efforts across all county offices.

Additionally, Bertino-Tarrant spotlighted several accomplishments during the last year, such as the continued expansion of the Access Will County Dial-a-Ride service, Sunny Hill Nursing Home being designated the third-ranked nursing home in Illinois, continued construction of the new Veteran Assistance and Support Center, increased enforcement of overweight trucks on local roads at the Sheriff's Office, and the completion of the "Our Way Forward" Long Range Transportation Plan.

Read More: [willcounty.gov/News/will-county-executive-bertino-tarrant-focuses-on-growth-and-stability-in-state-of-the-county-address](https://www.willcounty.gov/News/will-county-executive-bertino-tarrant-focuses-on-growth-and-stability-in-state-of-the-county-address)



Rescue Rally and Pet Expo Returns to Plainfield on Sept. 6!

Bring your four-legged friends out to the Rescue Rally & Pet Expo on Saturday, September 6 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Clow Stephens Park in Plainfield! Enjoy pet-friendly activities, fun, food, freebies, and see the furry friends available for adoption that could be your new best friend to take home. There will also be a pet parade starting at noon – pet costumes are encouraged!

This event is hosted by Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, Plainfield Park District, and the Plainfield Area Public Library.

No registration is necessary for this event. For more information, visit the link below!

Learn More: www.plfdparks.org/event/pet-rescue-rally-free



Imagination Library of Will County Celebrates Launch

The Imagination Library of Will County has officially launched! Will County parents can now register to have free, high-quality and age-appropriate books mailed directly to their children from birth until their fifth birthday!

The popular literacy program was celebrated at a kick-off event at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA in Plainfield hosted by Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and the Will County Center for Economic Development (CED), who partnered to bring the book-gifting program to Will County.

The Imagination Library is part of Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation. Since launching in 1995, the Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. The effort to bring Imagination Library to Will County was initiated shortly after Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education announced a statewide expansion of the program, which matches every dollar raised locally.

The launch event included several members of Will County's state legislative delegation to highlight the inclusion of the program in the state budget, along with several local community leaders who have signed on as program partners. The event also recognized local donors who have committed to championing the literacy program, including the Rotary Club of Joliet, Amazon, Jackson Generation, Earthrise, and the Caesars Foundation.

Learn more about registering your children for the program or sponsoring a child to receive one free year of books by visiting the link below!

Learn More: willcountyillinois.org/imagination-library/



THANK YOU, 2025 SUMMER INTERNS!

Interns Gain Experience at Will County

Will County hosted nearly a dozen high school and college interns in various departments over the Summer, offering an opportunity for these talented students to work closely with department leadership and staff to assist with projects in their area of studies and to gain real-world experience critical for their career-development.

Interns gained experience in a variety of offices, including Animal Protection Services, Community Mental Health Board, Division of Transportation, Emergency Management Agency, Executive Office, ICT, Land Use, and Sunny Hill Nursing Home. Several offices also participated in the Will County Center for Economic Development Internship Program, which aims to give high school students real-world experience critical to preparing for their future careers and creates a future pipeline to strengthen the Will County Workforce.

Internships offer valuable perspective and practical experience for individuals before fully entering the workforce. Hear some of the stories from our 2025 Summer Interns:

Dalya | Executive Office

"This internship relates to my career goals after high school since I'm interested in going into journalism/communications, and I gained real life experience in an office setting in that area."

Iain | Division of Transportation

"I'm a construction management student, so being able to see the processes that lead up to and follow a project is something I will be closely involved with in my future career."

Mac | Emergency Management Agency

"This internship gave me hands-on experience in the emergency management field. It has confirmed that I want to pursue a career in this area and helped me identify that I'm more drawn to response and field coordination roles."

Read more of these stories on our website and learn more about how interns can benefit your organization!

Learn More: willcounty.gov/News/interns-gain-experience-at-will-county



RECYCLING EVENTS

Fall Recycling Events with Will County Green

Will County Green is gearing up for fall recycling and collection events around Will County!

Click the link after each event for more information. Please note that some events require an appointment to attend, and most are only for residents residing in Will County boundaries.

NEW LENOX | Saturday, September 13 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Recyclepalooza

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/new_lenox_recyclepalooza_hazardous_waste_electronics_wood_more_collection_event_2025

HOMER GLEN | Saturday, September 27 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Hazardous Waste, Motor Oil and Electronics Collection

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/homer_glen_hazardous_waste_motor_oil_electronics_collection_event_2025

MONEE | Saturday, October 4 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Hazardous Waste, Motor Oil and Electronics Collection

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/monee_hhw_electronics_collection_2025

SHOREWOOD | Saturday, October 18 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Electronics and Small Scrap Metal Recycling

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/free_electronics_oct_2025

ROMEOVILLE | Saturday, November 1 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Triple Play – Pumpkins, Shredding, Electronics Recycling in Romeoville

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/2025TriplePlay