



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



**JENNIFER
BERTINO-TARRANT**
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As November comes to a close, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. This season is an opportunity for reflection and showing appreciation for what we are all most grateful for. Along with family and friends, I remain grateful to serve as your Will County Executive and for all that we have been able to accomplish as a county over the last year.

With the holidays around the corner, we shift from the season of thanks to the season of giving. Along with gifts for the people in our lives, it's important to remember those in our community who need a helping hand. Unfortunately, many of our social service organizations have seen increased demand alongside decreased support from the federal government. This includes our food pantries, which have been strained due to ongoing uncertainty around Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

When people ask me which local charity they should donate to, I tell them to look to organizations providing the most local support in their communities. For example, you can find your closest food pantry through an interactive online map run by our regional food bank, the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This is a great way to support organizations right here in Will County that are helping our neighbors in need.

One of the biggest joys this job comes with is the knowledge that despite the large size of Will County, residents always work together to support their neighborhoods. This is part of what truly makes our community so great. For this, I am always grateful. Again, I wish you a happy and hopeful Thanksgiving.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



**GIVE THE GIFT
OF READING**

\$16

**Sponsors a Child for
a Year of Free Books**

Have a Holly Dolly Christmas!

The Imagination Library of Will County invites you to sprinkle a little extra magic this holiday season by sponsoring a child to receive free books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. A simple gift of \$16 supports a Will County child with a whole year of beautiful, high-quality books delivered right to their doorstep.

The "Have a Holly Dolly Christmas" fundraiser aims to help Will County children fall in love with reading through Dolly Parton's celebrated free gift-giving program. Research has repeatedly demonstrated that a child receiving free books through the program has higher reading skills later in life and improved early educational outcomes.

The Imagination Library of Will County was started as a partnership between Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and the Will County Center for Economic Development to fundraise for and implement the program in local communities. The program has already surpassed its 2025 goal for registrations, with over 5,100 children signed up to receive free books!

Give the Gift of Reading!: zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/have-a-holly-dolly-christmas



Holiday Art Sale Returns to County Office Building!

Give the gift of art this holiday season! Our friends at Cornerstone Services, Inc. have returned to the County Office Building (302 N. Chicago St., Joliet) to sell handmade holiday artwork and decor items.

All items are made by a member of the Cornerstone community and a portion of proceeds go back to the artist. Items will be on display in the County Office Building lobby and can be purchased every Friday (with the exception of Nov. 28 and Dec. 26) from 9:30-11:30 a.m. until January 2nd.



Will County Staff Recognized for Leadership

Will County is celebrating two staff members who recently received awards from state associations for their years of leadership. County Executive Bertino-Tarrant thanks both Marta and Adela for serving as statewide examples of distinguished public service. Congratulations!

Adela Formentini – Laraway Communications Center

Training Manager Adela Formentini was named the 2025 Trainer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, recognizing her 40 years in the telecommunications industry and for developing Laraway Communications Center’s celebrated training program. The robust program that Adela has developed for training 9-1-1 telecommunicators has evolved into a statewide model, which includes a six-week course and on-site training with existing staff.

Adela’s strategies for welcoming trainees, fostering connections within the center, and mentoring telecommunicators have contributed to a record retention rate and a fully staffed call center. Her coworkers have recognized her “exceptional leadership, dedication, and a deep commitment to the professional development of our Telecommunicators.”

Marta Keane – Will County Land Use Department

Will County Recycling Specialist Marta Keane was named the “Steve Apotheker Recycler of the Year” by the Illinois Recycling Foundation. The Foundation recognized Marta’s 37 years of promoting recycling, advocating for statewide solutions to reducing waste, and her work with the Will County Land Use Department’s Resource Recovery & Energy Division.

Marta has served in her role for over 20 years, where she writes updates to the County’s Solid Waste Plan, oversees recycling drop-off programs, hosts special collection events, and shares public education information about recycling through Will County Green.

Will County Solidifies Role as Transit Hub

The Illinois General Assembly recently passed a package of reforms to the state’s transit network, which includes several changes that will solidify Will County’s role as a regional transit hub. The legislation establishes a new Northern Illinois Transit Authority to replace the Regional Transportation Authority and creates a new funding structure for regional transit.

County Executive Bertino-Tarrant has been working closely with local legislators to ensure that Will County communities have a seat at the table during discussions on how to reform our regional and state transit system. The final legislation includes three changes that are significant for Will County, improving local economic development and expand access for residents to the region:

High-Speed Rail

Establishes a planning study for improvements to the Joliet train station to facilitate future high-speed rail to Peoria, along with future locations throughout the Chicagoland region.

Rock Island Line

Establishes a pilot program to expand the Rock Island line to become a regional rail line. This will expand the number of trains coming in and out of Joliet, with a goal of creating a constant back-and-forth access to Chicago every 30-40 minutes.

University Park Rail Line Expansion

Establishes a pilot program to expand the Metra Electric commuter rail line from University Park to Kankakee. This has great potential to expand access to economic opportunities and quality of life to residents in Eastern Will County.



**HOME FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**
NOV 17 - DEC 31

FREE CAT AND DOG MICROCHIPPING

Free Pet Microchipping Available through Home for the Holidays Promotion

Will County Animal Protection Services (APS) is hosting their “Home for the Holidays” promotion to provide free microchips to pets belonging to Will County residents and waiving reclaim fees for those reclaiming their lost pet from the shelter. The promotion will run from November 17th-December 31st.

The goal is to ensure that families can reunite with their lost pets quickly and safety. Families will be able to pick up lost pets from APS without a fee and set an appointment for a free microchip appointment.

Free microchipping appointments are available for dogs, cats, rabbits, and ferrets. Appointments are required and are available at Will County APS, Joliet Junior College (JJC), and Wilco Area Career Center (Wilco). Requirements for microchipping include making an appointment, being a Will County resident (ID required), dogs remaining leashed, cats remaining in carriers, and proof of a current rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and ferrets (must be current by the time of appointment).

Residents can book an appointment at Will County APS online, in-person, or over the phone (815-462-5633). They can also book an appointment with Wilco by visiting their website. JJC’s microchip clinic will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 13.

Book an Appointment: [zalendly.com/willcountyaps/home-for-the-holidays-microchip-appointment](https://www.zalendly.com/willcountyaps/home-for-the-holidays-microchip-appointment)