



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Earlier this month, we celebrated a historic economic milestone with the news that Hyundai Translead is establishing a trailer manufacturing facility in Will County. This move represents a transformational investment in the future of our community that solidifies our role as the fastest-growing economy in Illinois and a national hub for manufacturing.

This production facility will generate local careers and inject significant capital investments into our local economy. Hyundai Translead has committed to a \$450 million investment that will deliver nearly 2,500 jobs their two new locations in Joliet and Channahon.

I'm proud to say that Will County has everything that a large company would find appealing for a jobs-creating expansion or relocation, such as a skilled workforce, access to a national transportation network, and strong communities to attract talent to live in and lay down roots.

I'm deeply grateful to the state and local leaders, including our partnership with the Will County Center for Economic Development, for their commitment to bring this historic project to our area.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive

Learn More: gov-pritzker-newsroom.prezly.com/gov-pritzker-announces-hyundai-translead-to-bring-2500-jobs-to-illinois



Recyclepalooza Kicks Off Spring Recycling Events

Will County Green's popular "Recyclepalooza" event in Joliet kicks off a full schedule of Spring recycling events throughout the county. Recyclepalooza will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, offering an opportunity to recycle or responsibly dispose of unwanted items during your Spring cleaning!

The popular collection and recycling event accepts a wide range of items, including electronics, household chemicals, hazardous materials, batteries, clothing, wood, small home goods, and many more. Items can be donated for reuse, including reusable clothing, toys, small home goods, and cookware. To help regulate traffic, the event's location will be shared with attendees after they book an appointment on the website.

Other recycling events throughout the county include the Electronics Drop-Off Event in Shorewood on May 2, the Textiles Drop-Off Event at the County Office Building the week of May 4, the Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event in Plainfield on May 9, and the Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet from May 29 to May 31.

Can't make it to these events? Visit Will County Green's website to learn about reoccurring recycling opportunities, including weekly electronic drop-off events, hazardous waste drop-off locations, and available front door pick-up services for electronics.

Register for Recyclepalooza: willcountygreen.com/spring_2026



ELECTRONICS DROPOFF | SHOREWOOD, MAY 2
willcountygreen.com/shorewood_may2026



TEXTILES DROP-OFF EVENT | COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, MAY 4-8
willcountygreen.com/2026_textile_shoe__home_good_collection_



ELECTRONICS & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF | PLAINFIELD, MAY 9
willcountygreen.com/plainfield_hazardous_waste_motor_oil__electronics_drop-off_event_2026



BOOK REUSE & RECYCLING EVENT | JOLIET, MAY 29- 31
willcountygreen.com/will_county_book_reuse_and_recycling_event_2026



PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONS

MARCH 10 | 2PM - 5PM



"Pathways to Professions" Connects Students with Career Options

The Workforce Services Division of Will County hosted their 4th Annual Pathways to Professions Expo, connecting 866 students from 17 Will County high schools with perspective about potential future career opportunities.

Over 80 employers were on hand, showcasing diverse career and educational pathways, along with interactive elements to showcase what it's like to work in their field. The expo also featured a public component where over 350 Will County residents had the opportunity to connect with local employers.

Interested in learning more about how the Workforce Services Division can help you find your next career or grow in your profession? Visit the link below or visit the Workforce Center of Will County at their new location in Joliet!

Learn More: jobs4people.org



MAPPING WITH THE 3 LITTLE PIGS

WILL COUNTY GIS LEADS LOCAL STORYTIME



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

GUIDE WILL



Growing Smarter · Living Better

Will County GIS Manager Presents “Mapping” Storytime

After looking for meaningful ways for the GIS Division to engage in community outreach, GIS Manager Becky Colwell-Ongeneae identified an opportunity to share her mapping expertise with the next generation as part of the Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District’s “Adopt A Reading Buddy” program.

Becky created a hands-on, kid-friendly mapping activity inspired by The Three Little Pigs for children ages 5-9. After being read the story, children were given a brief introduction to basic map-making concepts and then used various magnetized map symbols – pigs, the wolf, and houses (both standing and “blown down”) – to build their own maps on metal cookie sheets, illustrating the part of the story that interested them most.

Becky led the engaging activity for almost 60 children, who rotated through six animal-themed activity stations during the library event. The structure, led by the library’s Youth Service Manager, allowed many small groups to engage in hands-on learning and have a creative and educational experience during Becky’s mapping exercise. She was proud that her visit helped reinforce storytelling, while teaching early mapping skills.

Thank you to the Manhattan-Elwood Public Library for this opportunity and to Becky for offering this interactive activity!

Will County Kicks Off “Guide Will” Planning Effort

Will County has launched an update to its Land Resources Management Plan, the guiding policy document that has shaped County land use and development since 2002. The “Guide Will” Planning Effort will establish a clear vision and policy framework to guide decisions and achieve County goals over the next 10-15 years.

The plan update will guide key decisions related to the quality of life of residents and future growth, including housing and development; economy and employment; agriculture and rural character; open space and environment; transportation and infrastructure; and regional coordination. The first public engagement phase will be conducted through the Spring, which will guide a draft updated plan that will be presented for further public input.

Public input will guide policy updates and future land use recommendations. Visit guidewill.co to subscribe, take the survey, or place your ideas on the interactive online map. Four open houses will also be hosted throughout Will County in Spring.

Join us in shaping Will County’s next chapter!

Help Shape Will County: guidewill.co



JACKSON
Generation

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN’S LITERACY!



Jackson Generation Recommits to Imagination Library

Will County-based Jackson Generation has recommitted their support to the Imagination Library of Will County with a \$25,000 donation, emphasizing the local support of the free book-gifting program. The generous donation follows their May 2025 donation of the same amount that helped kick-start the program in Will County, empowering thousands of local children to receive free, monthly books through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

J-POWER USA Vice President of Asset Management Larry Graves presented the donation to Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and Will County Economic Development (CED) President & CEO Doug Pryor during a tour of their Elwood-based plant. He emphasized the local impact of the program and how many of their 30 Will County-based employees at the facility have enrolled their children in the program.

Jackson Generation’s \$50,000 commitment to the Imagination Library of Will County coincides with the program being the first in Illinois to exceed 6,000 children registered to receive free monthly books. By already leading the state in children registered in the seven months since launching, the Imagination Library of Will County is ensuring that thousands of local children have access to a program that has a proven success rate of improving early childhood educational outcomes.

Thank you to Jackson Generation for your continued support for this impactful program! If you haven’t registered your children yet for the program, visit the link below!

Register Now: WillCountyimaginationLibrary.org