



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April Showers have certainly lived up to its name this month. On the bright side, flowers are blooming, leaves are returning, and the grass is greener.

This month brought a couple highlights for Will County. One of our long-term projects was completed this month with the ribbon cutting for the new Veterans' Assistance and Support Center located at 1300 Copperfield Avenue in Joliet (the old Silver Cross Hospital complex).

This well-thought-out new facility will serve as the new home of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County (VAC), meeting the needs of our veteran population and creating a one-of-a-kind campus for veteran services in the heart of Will County. The work of our VAC is invaluable and we appreciate partnering with this dynamic team to get this project completed on time and on budget.

At the same location, we cut the ribbon for the new Workforce Center of Will County. Similar to the new VAC office, this new facility offers a centralized location to access the important resources offered by our Workforce Services Division and their partners. Our dedicated workforce team has tools designed to help residents research job opportunities, offers classes to tidy-up resumes, and provides programs update career skills.

In addition to an already busy month, we also took the time to celebrate the hardworking volunteers at the Will County Emergency Management Agency, the compassionate care of our Will County Animal Protection Services team, and the committed telecommunicators at the Laraway Communications Center.

We have a busy summer ahead of us and I hope that you take the time to read through our articles and follow us on social media to stay apprised of Will County news!

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive



Will County Cuts Ribbon on New Veterans Center

Will County officials and the local veteran community celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County (VAC) office, representing a new "one-stop shop" for veteran services for Will County residents. The new space is located at the heart of the first unified Veteran Support Campus in Illinois.

The VAC has relocated from their previous leased location into the newly renovated County-owned building at 1300 Copperfield Avenue in Joliet, upgrading to a 16,000 square foot space from their previous office size of approximately 4,300 square feet. The expanded footprint will allow the VAC to hire more veteran service officers, reduce appointment wait times, and expand programmatic offerings.

Over 150 attendees at the ribbon cutting ceremony heard from Will County and VAC leadership on the impact of the expanded space and toured the new assistance and support center. The center includes welcoming counseling spaces, a food pantry for veterans, and a modern fitness center to support the VAC's mental health and physical health wellness programs.

The VAC office joins both the Hines VA's Joliet Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Volunteers of America Illinois' Hope Manor Housing at a new unified Veteran Support Campus, making it easier for veterans and their families to access wrap-around services.

Learn More: willcounty.gov/News/ribbon-cutting-celebrated-for-veterans-assistance-commission-of-will-county



DIAPER DRIVE

APRIL 2026

Diaper and Wipe Donations Being Accepted

There's still time to donate diapers and wipes for the April Diaper Drive! Donations are being accepted for newborn, infant, and toddler diapers and wipes for local children.

This drive is a partnership between County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, State Representative Natalie Manley, State Representative Dagmara Avelar and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

Donations can be dropped off at:

Will County Office Building - 302 N. Chicago St., Joliet

Romeoville Village Hall - 1050 W. Romeo Rd., Romeoville

Shorewood Village Hall - 1 Towne Center Blvd., Shorewood

GUIDE WILL



Take the Survey



Attend an Open House

VISIT GUIDEWILL.CO

WILL COUNTY DOT

2026 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



Will County Seeking Public Input on "Guide Will" Plan

Will County is inviting public input during the "Guide Will" planning initiative, which will update the County's Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) that shapes future land use and development decisions. The planning initiative will incorporate public feedback on a wide range of topics related to Will County's future, including through an online survey, interactive map tools, and open house meetings.

The "Guide Will" initiative will be the first comprehensive update to the LRMP since 2002. The plan serves as the foundational guide for land use and development decisions by county leadership, with a priority-focus on unincorporated communities. The six primary topic areas being addressed include housing and development; economy and employment; agriculture and rural character; open space and environment; transportation and infrastructure; and regional coordination.

Residents are invited to share their thoughts online, including through a visioning survey and an interactive comment map to pin ideas, priorities, and concerns. There will also be two open houses hosted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at Wilmington City Hall (1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington) and Nowell Park (199 Mills Road, Joliet). Two open houses have already been hosted in Plainfield and Monee.

Learn More: willcounty.gov/News/will-county-seeking-public-input-on-guide-will-planning-initiative

Will County Releases Spring/Summer Construction Schedule

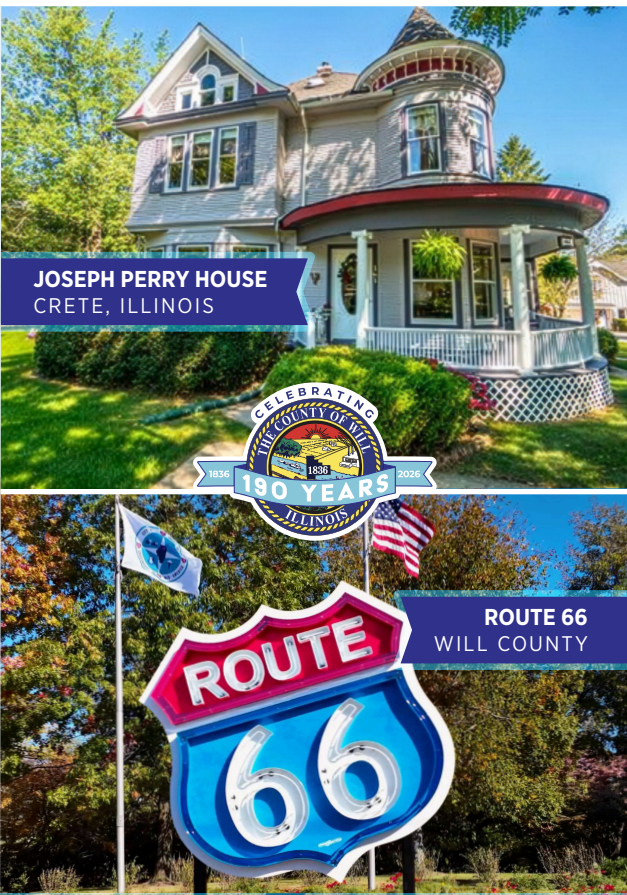
With warm weather here to stay, the Will County Division of Transportation has released their 2026 schedule for reconstruction, improvement, and resurfacing projects throughout the county.

The projects are part of Will County's Five-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, which allocated over \$122 Million to be invested in local infrastructure in 2026. Some of the major roadway reconstruction projects include 80th Avenue between 191st Street to 183rd Street in Tinley Park/Mokena, Francis Road between Gougar Road and I-80 in Joliet, West River Road between Coal City Road and Route 53 in Wilmington, Bell Road between 151st to Martingale Lane, and Lorenzo Road over the BNSF Railway in Wilmington.

Will County DOT urges commuters to drive cautiously in construction zones and to follow all signs related to lane closures and speed limits to keep workers safe. Detours are recommended during rush hour times to minimize congestion.

Interactive maps can be found on the Will County DOT website to help motorists monitor when projects will begin and end. Many large-scale projects also have dedicated websites to outline their progress and gather public input.

Learn More: WillCounty.gov/DOT.



JOSEPH PERRY HOUSE
CRETE, ILLINOIS



ROUTE 66
WILL COUNTY

Will County at 190: April History Spotlight

To celebrate Will County's 190th anniversary, the Executive Office is spotlighting local historic landmarks and milestones under the theme "Celebrating 190 Years of Community." This month, we recognize the county's newest landmark and celebrate the impact of Route 66 on Will County during its centennial.

Joseph Perry House - Crete

The Joseph Perry House in Crete was approved as an official county landmark at the April meeting of the Will County Board, celebrating the philanthropic legacy of the Perry family and the architectural significance of the building. The house, an example of the Queen Anne style which was popular in the late 1800's, has also been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

While architecturally significant, the landmark also celebrates the local impact of the Perry family. Dr. Joseph Perry became well known for his philanthropy during his over 30 years as a physician, tending to patients who could not afford health care and providing food to farming families in need. His son, Joseph Ferris Perry, continued this legacy by creating a free lunch program for needy children during his tenure as superintendent of the East Side School District in Joliet and the regional superintendent of Will County from 1878 to 1883.

Route 66 - Will County

This year's Route 66 Centennial celebration serves as a nationwide celebration of the impact of America's most iconic highway on local growth and culture. As part of the "First Hundred Miles," several Will County communities will be spotlighting the historic role that the "Mother Road" played in their history and the City of Joliet has been selected as an official gateway city for the Centennial.

Will County's rapid pace of population and economic growth in the 19th and 20th centuries have often been attributed to the growth of nationwide transportation infrastructure, including the I&M Canal, railroads, and the national highway system. Route 66 served as one more road to opportunity for Will County communities, fueling economic growth along its corridors and creating a lasting tourist legacy along its path that remains strong to this day.

LOCAL LANDMARK SPOTLIGHT