



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



**JENNIFER
BERTINO-TARRANT**
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Residents,

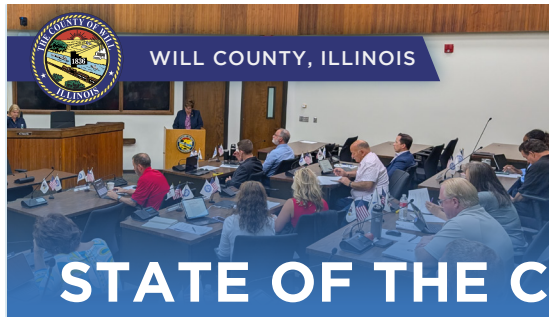
While August is certainly one of our busiest months of the year, it also is one of my favorites. This includes vibrant events throughout the county, such as the many Back to School events hosted by school districts, local organizations, and elected officials. Our office attended many of these to share supplies and resources, and I appreciate everyone who took the time to organize these important gatherings.

I also presented on the State of the County this month, which is an opportunity to slow down and reflect on the impact County offices have made over the last year. Whether it's empowering law enforcement to protect our communities, expanding transportation access for seniors, building and repairing local roads that people rely on every day, growing our economy, or modernizing how we deliver services, these accomplishments reflect our ability to improve the quality of life for Will County residents and ensure a stronger future for our communities.

To continue our track record of responsible governing, I presented a balanced budget for next year to the County Board, which leverages efficiencies and our fast-growing economy to hold the line on taxes. This budget aligns with my top two goals of maintaining our fiscal stability and maintaining the services that residents expect from their County.

The State of the County remains strong and we have much to look forward to, with fast-growing communities and a thriving local economy. I'm proud of what we have been able to accomplish during the last year and look forward to building on these successes in the future.

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



STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

"Our Hard Work and Planning Have Made a Difference"

County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant delivered her State of the County and Budget address to the Will County Board this month, spotlighting accomplishments that have positively impacted residents. Bertino-Tarrant proposed a FY27 Budget that leverages efficiencies to hold the line on taxes, with no increases in property taxes.

"I'm proud to report that our hard work and planning over the years have made a difference. We've capitalized on efficiencies to provide a balanced budget that maintains services, in the face of economic headwinds and rising costs, all without raising property taxes." – County Executive Bertino-Tarrant.

The Will County tax rate, which makes up about 6% of every property tax bill, has decreased to .4618% due to local population and economic growth.

Her address also highlighted countywide accomplishments over the last year, including:

- Making more resources available for our public safety, judicial, and criminal justice offices.
- Expanding transportation access to seniors through our now fully county-wide Access Will County Dial-a-Ride service, which will provide over 45,000 rides by the end of the year.
- Opening the new Veterans Assistance Commission office in Joliet, which has already increased services to local veterans and their families.
- Investing \$145 million into local road improvements throughout the county this year, the largest annual road improvement plan in County history.

Read more about the State of the County at the link below!

Read More: willcounty.gov/News/will-county-executive-bertino-tarrant-proposes-no-property-tax-increase-in-annual-budget-address



Rescue Rally and Pet Expo Returns on Sept. 12 to Plainfield!

The Rescue Rally and Pet Expo returns to Clow Stephens Park in Plainfield on Sept. 12, as part of an annual partnership between Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, Plainfield Public Library, and Plainfield Park District. The expo will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 16650 S. Lily Cache Road in Plainfield.

The free expo will showcase a variety of vendors including animal hospitals, animal rescues, artisan dog treats, pet clothing and therapy dogs. Additionally, there will be food trucks, giveaways and a pet parade at noon.

All Will County residents are invited to bring their four-legged friend or to meet adoptable animals! No registration is necessary.



Recovery Update: July and August Severe Weather

Will County residents, businesses, and private nonprofit organizations impacted by recent severe weather are now eligible for low-interest federal disaster loans following the July 27 storms that impacted the region.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering disaster loans for uninsured or under-insured losses to eligible Will County homeowners, renters, businesses, and private nonprofit organizations affected by the July 27 severe storms. These loans may help repair or replace disaster-damaged homes, personal property, businesses, machinery, equipment, inventory, and other eligible property. They may also cover economic losses to businesses and nonprofits caused by the disaster.

Along with online ([sba.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster)) and phone (800-659-2955) resources, the SBA has established an in-person assistance center at the Village of University Park Community Room located at 90 Town Center Drive in University Park. Application assistance is available through Tuesday, September 8. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day. Walk-ins are welcome.

Additionally, federal and state agencies are assessing the damage caused by August 11 severe weather. Beginning in the first week of September, residents may see assessment teams going door-to-door in areas affected by the August storms. This information will help them determine the extent of damage and whether Will County may qualify for additional federal assistance.

Team members will only assess damage from outside and will not enter homes or businesses. They will carry official identification, and there is no charge for the assessment.

Apply for SBA Assistance: <https://www.sba.gov/disaster>



— IMPROVING — LOCAL ACCESS

Rep. Bill Foster Secures \$850,000 for Weber Road Improvements

Congressman Bill Foster presented an \$850,000 check to Will County and Village of Romeoville officials, after securing federal funding to complete the final segment of the Weber Road corridor improvements aimed at improving access and safety for all roadway users. The funding was awarded as part of Community Project Funding in next year's federal budget.

Weber Road has the highest average daily traffic count of any County Highway and has served as a critical gateway for economic and population growth in northern Will County. The Will County Division of Transportation has prioritized modernizing this key corridor in recent years, including through the diverging diamond interchange at I-55 and Weber Road.

This federal funding will support improvements to the roadway between 135th Street and Airport Road, which is the final stretch of the Weber Road modernizations that will solidify access between I-55 and Romeoville. The project will include improved safety features, such as a raised median between both sides of the four-lane road, and intersection upgrades. These include a new stop light at Weber Road and South Carillon Drive. Noise walls will also be constructed to mitigate the impact of existing traffic levels on local neighborhoods.

Thank you to Rep. Foster for securing this funding and your support for Will County infrastructure!



FALL RECYCLING EVENTS

“Recyclepalooza” Kicks Off Fall Recycling Campaign

Will County Green’s “Recyclepalooza” event in September kicks off a full schedule of Fall recycling events throughout the county! The Resource Recovery & Energy Division is offering a wide variety of opportunities to recycle or responsibly dispose of unwanted items. Learn more and register at www.WillCountyGreen.com.

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

NEW LENOX
Saturday, September 12 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Recyclepalooza

PEOTONE
Saturday, September 19 | 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Tire Recycling

JOLIET
Saturday, September 26 | 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Textile and Clothes Collection

SHOREWOOD
Saturday, October 1 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Electronics-Only Recycling Event

WILMINGTON
Saturday, October 17 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Electronics & Hazardous Waste Recycling

ROMEOVILLE
Saturday, November 7 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Pumpkins, Shredding, & Electronics Recycling

Learn More: <https://www.willcountygrecn.com/>

WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
COUNTY CLERK

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To continue our track record of responsible governance, I presented a balanced budget for next year to the County Board, which leverages efficiencies and our fast-growing economy to hold the line on taxes. This budget aligns with my top two goals of maintaining the services and residents served from their County.

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Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Clerk

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willcountygreen.com/will-county-executive-jennifer-bertino-tarrant-proposes-no-property-tax-increase-in-animal-budget-address



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The Rescue Rally and Pet Expo returns to Dover Plains on Sept. 12, as part of an annual partnership between Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, State Senator Meg Logue, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, State Senator Meg Logue, Plainfield Public Library and Plainfield Fire Department. The expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5150 S. Lily Cane Road in Plainfield.

The free expo will showcase a variety of vendors offering animal hospitals, animal rescue, adoption dogs, pet clothing and therapy dogs. Additionally, there will be food trucks, giveaways and a pet parade at noon.

All Will County residents are invited to bring their dog, cat, or other adoptable animals. No registration is necessary.

- October 11 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
WILMINGTON
Saturday, October 11 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ROMEVILLE
Saturday, November 7 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Pumpkins, Strolling, & Electronics Recycling

IMPROVING LOCAL ACCESS

Rep. Bill Foster Secures \$850,000 for Weber Road Improvements

Rep. Bill Foster presented an \$850,000 check to Will County and the Will County Division of Transportation for the Weber Road corridor improvements aimed at increasing safety for all roadway users. The funding was awarded through the American Infrastructure Act.

The funding will be used to improve the roadway between the intersection of Weber Road and the intersection of Weber Road and the intersection of Weber Road and the intersection of Weber Road.

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your support