

WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Residents,

We continued to celebrate the transformational economic development happening in Will County this month. Hyundai Translead announced plans to expand manufacturing operations at the company's two planned Will County facilities, creating 3,750 new full-time jobs in advanced manufacturing.

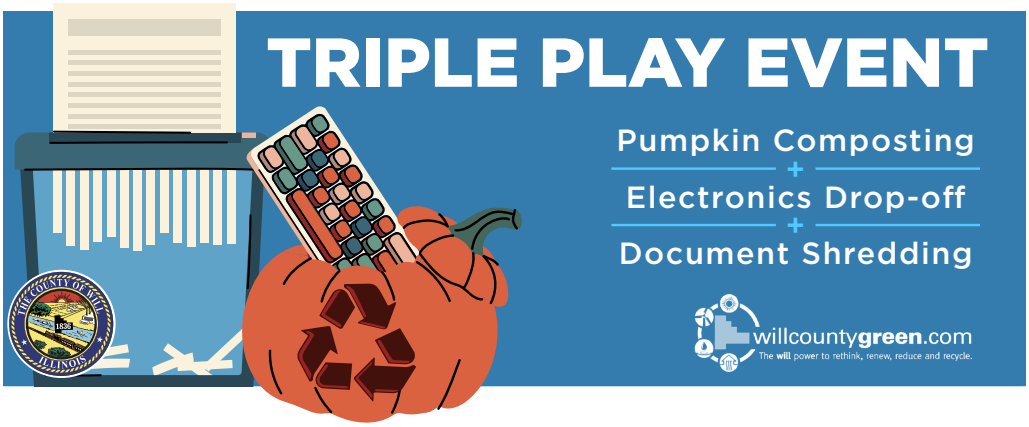
This $600 million investment will have a ripple effect, bringing about a new wave of growth in this region and cementing our role as a manufacturing hub for Illinois. Projects of this scale represent new opportunities for residents and support the surrounding businesses and communities that make up our local economy. This investment demonstrates that companies around the world are confident that Will County is a place where their businesses can thrive and where they can continue to grow for years to come.

This investment also includes the establishment of the new Manufacturing Training Academy at Joliet Junior College to strengthen the workforce development pipeline and provide the skills needed for in-demand manufacturing careers. Connecting students with training opportunities will make it easier for Will County residents to access these newly created jobs, while connecting employers with qualified local talent.

I am excited to see the positive impacts that this project will bring and continued economic growth throughout Will County.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | Will County Executive





Recycling and Pumpkin Compost Event Returns to Romeoville!

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Will County Green's popular "Triple Play" returns to Lewis University in Romeoville. Bring your post-Halloween jack-o-lanterns for composting, drop off your old electronics, and bring documents for on-site shredding!

The event will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Lewis University's W Parking Lot (1 University Pkwy, Romeoville) from 9 AM to 12 PM. No appointment required. Don't miss out on:

Pumpkin Composting
Give your jack-o-lanterns a well-earned retirement after the Halloween season! Pumpkins can be dropped off in our container, which will be taken for composting after the event and turned into a nutrient-rich soil supplement.

Electronics Recycling
Responsibly dispose of old electronics – Limit of three TV's per vehicle. Please remove any candles, paint, bags, or other decorations from your pumpkins before dropping off for composting.

Document Shredding
Confidential disposing of documents on-site. Limit of three bank boxes per vehicle.

Learn More: willcountygreen.com/tripleplay26/



Residents Over 45 Invited to Share Priorities with AARP Illinois

Will County is partnering with AARP to take important steps toward building communities where residents can remain active, independent, and connected as they age. Residents ages 45 and older are asked to take a survey and share their experiences to help shape the future of our communities.

As residents age, their needs and priorities may change, from transportation and housing to health and wellness and opportunities for social involvement. Understanding these needs, both now and in the future, can help the County better plan for its residents.

Available now through Dec. 7, the survey asks residents about their experiences to identify areas where additional support may be needed, and guide future planning and priorities.

Learn More: aarpresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_892GGwmzGipkRSe



Will County Launches "HOPE Program" for Pets

The new Will County Helping Owners & Pets Equitably (HOPE) Program, a free program for eligible households to spay, neuter, and microchip their dogs and cats, is already making a difference for families throughout the county! The program, managed by Will County Animal Protection Services (Will County APS), aims to ensure healthy outcomes for pets, help control pet overpopulation by reducing the number of unplanned litters, and lower the number of pets in area shelters.

The program is eligible to Will County residents who either participate in the Illinois LINK program or receive Social Security Disability Insurance. Eligible residents can apply for a voucher directly through Will County APS for their dog or cat to receive a free spay or neuter surgery at one of 14 participating veterinary offices.

Will County APS will also provide a free microchip for pets if they are not microchipped already, ensuring that families can reunite with their lost pets quickly and safely.

The HOPE Program will be in effect until November 30, 2026, or until all funds have been expended. The program is funded completely by rabies registration fees and the Will County Animal Population Fund. Application information can be found at the announcement link below.

Learn More: willcounty.gov/News/will-county-aps-launches-new-pet-assistance-program

Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, raising awareness, supporting those impacted, and remembering those who have lost their lives.

A key focus of Breast Cancer Awareness Month is emphasizing the importance of screenings, preventative healthcare actions, and identifying the early warning signs for cancer and other common diagnoses for women. Early detection can increase the survival rate by as high as 99%.

Additionally, Will County is raising awareness of Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness (MBC) as part of the national LightUpMBC campaign. The Will County Facilities Department has illuminated the County Office Building and Courthouse in the colors of green, teal, and pink to spotlight MBC, also known as Stage 4 cancer, when cancer has spread to other parts of the body. The LightUPMBC Campaign shines a spotlight on the urgent need for more research and resources to improve outcomes for MBC patients.

Even as October comes to a close, it is important to show our support to survivors and honor those who have lost their lives to breast cancer throughout the year.

