



## Office of Will County Executive Lawrence M. Walsh

Public Information Officer ☞ 302 N. Chicago St. ☞ Joliet, IL 60432

**Tammy Reiher**  
Public Information Officer

Phone: (815) 774-7485  
Fax: (815) 774-3671

July 22, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Will County Land Use Department lauded for Internet innovation**

JOLIET – The Will County Land Use Department’s website innovation was awarded a 2009 Chaddick Development Control Award by DePaul University’s Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development.

The award was given to the County as a result of the Land Use Department’s initiative to promote regulatory transparency through its website. There were 15 nominations for this year’s competition. Will County and Bartlett were named winners.

Joseph Kearney, Program Manager for the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, said, “The Award Committee was particularly impressed with the level of detail contained within the Land Use Department’s staff reports that are available online at least a week ahead of public hearings.”

Kearney went on to say that, “Other local governments would do well to emulate this highly transparent and efficient model of providing information to the public about planning and zoning commission cases. It’s a win-win for elected officials, staff, and citizens alike.”

“The Land Use Department’s Internet communications continues to strengthen my office’s commitment to provide Will County citizens greater accessibility to government,” said Will County Executive Larry Walsh, who oversees the Land Use Department.

For the past four years, the Land Use Department has utilized the Internet to improve public engagement efforts. “This recognition from the Chaddick Institute at DePaul University is a tangible validation of our staff’s professionalism, creativity and unceasing effort to improve the quality of our services to the citizens of Will County,” said Curt Paddock, Director of the Will County Land Use Department.

The Department has improved public accessibility to the County’s zoning public hearing process by making information available online one week prior to the scheduled hearing. In addition to the agenda, information

posted before the public hearing includes the staff report and associated exhibits, such as zoning maps, aerial photography, site photographs, site plans, plats of survey, and correspondence received from other agencies.

Other information posted online includes documents associated with requests such as temporary use permits, or proposed ordinance text changes. “We have found that posting all zoning application information online has proved beneficial in assisting the public in their preparation for public hearings,” said David Dubois, Planning & Zoning Division Director. “Our goal through the posting of the information is to equip the public with answers prior to the public hearing, through both their review of the staff report and any follow-up discussion they may conduct with County staff.”

To view planning and zoning agendas, visit [www.willcountylanduse.com/Agendas&Minutes/index.html](http://www.willcountylanduse.com/Agendas&Minutes/index.html) . For more information about Will County’s Land Use Department, visit [www.willcountylanduse.com](http://www.willcountylanduse.com) . To learn more about Will County’s Planning and Zoning Division, go to [www.willcountylanduse.com/PZD/index.html](http://www.willcountylanduse.com/PZD/index.html) or call the Division at (815) 727-8430.