



Will County, Illinois

Plans moving forward for new Will County Courthouse

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During a December meeting of the Will County Board's Committee of the Whole, officials from Wight and Company presented an overview of plans for a new county courthouse. This new courthouse is proposed to be constructed on the site of the former First Midwest Bank building at the corner of Jefferson and Ottawa in downtown Joliet. The county purchased this building in 2014. The modern design will accommodate new requirements for security and accessibility.

The new courthouse is planned to be 10 floors, 390,000 square feet and house up to 34 courtrooms. The design incorporates modern security screening at courthouse entry and an ample public queuing area inside the building.

Other features include:

- Accommodate all Circuit Clerk operations from the old courthouse and space for future growth.
- Enclosed sally port to accommodate transport of in-custody defendants.
- Plans to accommodate direct judicial support functions such as jury assembly, law library/self-help legal center, alternative dispute resolution, grand jury, court administration.
- Design includes an environmentally responsive vegetated roof over the four-story wing of the building.
- Exterior façade designed to provide ample natural light into the building for occupant comfort, but designed with high performance strategies to address solar control based on the façade orientation.
- Site design includes a landscaped plaza forecourt to the facility entry.

Mobile Workforce Center Schedule



**Monday – Bolingbrook
Fountaindale Library**

**Tuesday – Univ. Park
Univ. Park Village Hall**

**Wednesday-Plainfield
Plainfield Public Library**

**Thursday – Wilmington
Wilmington Village Hall**

**Friday – Mokena
Mokena Community
Public Library**

Residents encouraged to participate in Will Connects 2040

Will County 911 Now Accepts Text Messages

Will County 9-1-1 is among the first jurisdictions in the Chicago suburbs to adopt the text-to-911 program. Text messages can take longer to send or receive, so Emergency Telephone System officials say that calling 911 is still the best option. DeMarco wants to ensure that the County's large community of wireless customers understands how to use texting to 9-1-1 in an emergency. If there is an emergency and you are unable to make a voice call, DeMarco says to remember these steps;

- Know your Location – Text your exact location
- Text what you need – Text what emergency help is needed – Police, Fire, Emergency Medical.
- Be Clear – Send a short message without abbreviations or slang.
- Stay Calm – Answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.

More information on 9-1-1 can be found at www.willcounty9-1-1.com



Will County Office Building
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 722-5515

www.willcountyillinois.com

Throughout the Will Connects 2040 process, residents have been encouraged to participate in local open houses and online surveys to offer input on the future of transportation in Will County.

During the first round of open houses, many of our residents attended and voiced their opinions about the future needs of transportation in Will County. The county's Department of Transportation is reviewing and considering the suggestions made by our residents at the open houses and through the online survey. We appreciate the residents who have participated so far and want to offer a second round of open houses and online survey options. Your input helps shape the County's vision of what our transportation network will look like in 2040.

Through this process, our residents have requested the County focus on improving our roads and bridges. Addressing additional impacts from increased freight traffic, both rail and truck, is also important to our residents.

Finally, our residents want us to consider the rural character of much of the County and recognize these differences so that appropriate improvements are implemented.

We appreciate this input and want all our residents to know this information is an important component of the County's future plans.

Whether you walk, bike, drive, or take public transit, we want your input on what Will County's future transportation will look like! Provide your input on future transportation investments and how we can fund them. Take our survey at www.WillConnects2040.org. The survey is available starting January 14 through mid-April 2016.

www.WillConnects2040.org



New Voting Options offered by Will County Clerk

Presidential election years traditionally attract a larger voter turnout. The Will County Clerk is offering several options to make it easier than ever for residents to exercise the right to vote in 2016.

Detailed information about the following election services on the website, www.thewillcountyclerk.com.

Before Early Voting begins on February 4th, a Voter Information Guide will be mailed to all registered voters and will include a sample ballot and information about Election Day polling places and other voting options. The passing of

Public Act 98-1171, effective June 1, 2015 requires the implementation of Pollbooks at all 300 polling places in Will County beginning with the March 15th Primary Election.

Same Day Registration will also be available at every polling place on Election Day.

Due to this new technology, wait times in line to vote may be slightly longer than usual. That is why residents are encouraged to take advantage of the services highlighted.

On the website, select the "Register to Vote" Quick Link

for more details about how to complete an application online or by mail to register to vote in Will County.

The last day to register online or by mail is February 16th to be eligible to vote in the March 15th Primary Election.

Be an Election Judge

Residents who would like to play an important role in the voting process can be an Election Judge.

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Go to the "Elections" icon at the top of the homepage and select the "Be an Election Judge" Quick Link to submit an application electronically.

Vote by Mail

Qualified, registered voters in Will County are eligible to request a Vote by Mail ballot. Go to the "Elections" icon and select the "Vote by Mail" Quick Link. Remember, in a Primary Election, voters must indicate a party preference. The last day to submit a Vote by Mail request is March 10th.

Early Voting

Residents do not have to wait until Election Day to cast a ballot. At the "Voter Services" pull down menu, select "Early Voting" for a list of dates and times at all locations offering this service.

Workforce Services Division of Will County & Veterans Assistance Commission have new location



Workforce Services Division and the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County have moved to a new home at 2400 Glenwood Avenue in Joliet. The new location offers ample parking and accessibility for residents to utilize the important services offered by Will County. The Workforce Services Division helps connect employers and job seekers in the county. For a complete listing of the monthly workshops and other services available, visit the website: www.jobs4people.org.

The Veterans Assistance Commission is operated by veterans for veterans. The Commission provides a variety of services to honorably discharged veterans and their families who reside in Will County. For a complete listing of services: visit the county website: www.willcountyillinois.com

**Will County Center for Community Concerns
has moved**



Please visit the new location:

2455 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet IL

Same phone number, same public services

(815) 722-0722

www.wcccc.net



Daylight Savings
Time Reminder

March 13, 2016

Begins 2 a.m., on Sunday, March 13. Remember to set your clocks forward & check the batteries on the smoke detectors in your home.



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302 N. Chicago Street
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www.willcountyillinois.com



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www.willcountyillinois.com

As Will County Executive, I am proud to welcome you to Will County. With 37 municipalities and 24 townships, covering nearly 850 square miles, Will County offers fantastic business opportunities and a remarkable environment to all who live, work and play here.

I hope you enjoyed the inaugural edition of this county newsletter. We intend to publish this newsletter quarterly as a way to keep our residents informed about the great things going on in Will County. Information about new services will be included in these newsletters as well as updates from other offices within Will County government.

It is indeed a privilege to lead this progressive county and work cooperatively with county government leaders and staff as we strive to serve our residents in the best way possible and plan and provide a vision for the future of our county. By working together, we will ensure Will County continues to be a wonderful place to call home.

Departments under the Will County Executive Office

9-1-1 Board

Animal Control

Board of Review

Communications

Building Maintenance

Community Development

Division of Transportation

Emergency Management Agency

Finance

Geographic Information Systems

Health Department

Human Resources

Information Technology

Land Use

Purchasing

Records Management

Stormwater Management

Sunny Hill Nursing Home

Supervisor of Assessments

Veterans Assistance Commission

Workforce Investment Board

Workforce Services Division