



Will County, Illinois

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Will County breaks ground on new Public Safety Complex



On October 5, Will County officials joined members of police and fire departments and other state and local elected officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Public Safety Complex to be constructed on Laraway Road. The event marked the beginning of one of the largest capital projects in the county's history. The new home for the Sheriff's Office, 911 Dispatch Center and Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) could open by the end of next year.



The \$29.5 million, 85,000 sq. ft. facility on Laraway Road and Route 52 in Joliet will replace the existing Sheriff's Office and provide new administration and training facilities, evidence storage, space for a consolidated 911 Dispatch Center that will serve 30 communities, as well as the Emergency Telephone System Board. Once the new complex is complete, the old Sheriff's Office will be torn down. This large scale project will create many local jobs. **(continued on page 2)**



November 24, 2016

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies.

For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

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Will County Implements Online Permitting

New program will improve citizen access to permitting processes

The Will County Land Use Department has announced implementation of their new cloud-based permitting system. The new system is designed to increase efficiency and make the Land Use permitting process more user-friendly.

"I am proud of the Land Use and ICT Departments in bringing this process into the 21st century," said Will County Executive Larry Walsh. "This implementation is bringing county services to the people. The Land Use Department's basic services will be more accessible, without the need to physically visit a County facility. It is streamlining our internal processes, as well as the public's processes.

"Through this online system, contractors and applicants can submit documents, apply for permits, schedule inspections, pay fees, print their permit and view detailed information regarding their own permits online. According to Brian Radner, Development Review Director, the portal will initially handle applications relating to commercial and residential windows and doors, siding, roofs, as well as heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and wireless telecommunications facilities and upgrades. More permit types will be added in the near future, as well as the ability for contractors to register online.

Another important feature of the portal is remote access which can be used through smartphones by the Land Use staff and contractors or members of the public.

Contractors and applicants can create an account to track multiple applications or just log on to inquire about a particular permit. The public can view basic information regarding past permits, as well as what active permits are ongoing in any given area, without having to log on. To access the public portal, users can go to <http://www.willcountylanduse.com/portal>.

Will County breaks ground on new Public Safety Complex

(cont. from page 1)

"It is reassuring to know that the majority of trade contracts awarded to date for this important new facility have been to Will County based companies," said Will County Executive Larry Walsh. "This shows we have succeeded in our efforts to communicate with both our business community and residents."

In August of 2013, after many years of deliberation, the Will County Board approved a comprehensive plan for major capital improvement projects and set into motion three years of planning and preparing for the event. Completion of the Public Safety Complex will herald the construction of a new courthouse and judicial complex in downtown Joliet on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Jefferson Streets.

"Our entire staff is looking forward to this new facility," said Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley. "The law enforcement staff, as well as our civilian staff, are dedicated to the residents of Will County and are committed to providing the highest standards of public safety to them. This facility is essential for the growth and progress of the Sheriff's Office. Upon its completion we will be poised to be more efficient by being under the same roof and better equipped with new technology and modernization within all divisions of the department. We are excited to get this project started."



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302 N. Chicago Street
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www.willcountyillinois.com

E-courtroom launched in Will County



November holiday closings set for Lockport electronic recycling site

Will County's recycling partner in Lockport will be closed two days in November in observance of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving weekend.

The Lockport Public Works, which collects items from 6 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, will be closed Nov. 11 and Nov. 25. The facility is at 17112 Prime Blvd.

The county's other recycling partners are not affected by the November holidays.

For more information about the county's electronic recycling program, go to www.willcountygreen.com



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Will County Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt and Circuit Clerk Pamela J. McGuire have introduced a new "paperless courtroom of the future", Courtroom 402.

"The offices of the Chief Judge and the Circuit Clerk have been working on implementing this paperless courtroom of the future," said Schoenstedt.



"This new technology will help expedite cases and ensure proper records are kept for all court proceedings." Will County Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt and Circuit Clerk Pamela J. McGuire have introduced a new "paperless courtroom of the future", Courtroom 402.

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Courtroom 402 has been electronically enhanced through the implementation of three computer workstations where forms can be completed and printed. Three printers and three flat screen monitors for viewing evidence have been installed that will be controlled by the judge from the bench. Forms that can be completed online are now available on the Circuit Clerk's website for both Civil and Criminal case types that replace multi-page copies.

"We were given approval for electronic filing back in June of this year," McGuire said. "We have been working with Chief Judge Schoenstedt and Circuit Judge Dave Carlson to get this project up and running." Schoenstedt said many offices were involved in implementing this new software.

"Many thanks for this advancement belong to Circuit Clerk McGuire and her staff as well as the County Board, the County Executive and his staff, Mike Miglorini, Jim Ellis, Mike Shay, and all those who made this effort such a success," Schoenstedt said. "We will continue to implement technology to achieve the full promise of an efficient, accessible and transparent court system."

McGuire also said the witness monitor will have the ability to incorporate annotations by the witness. These documents will be saved, printed for the court file and imaged in our Case Management System. The new lectern computer will allow for many types of evidence to be displayed in both visual and auditory formats.

"We hope the attorneys will find this new equipment to be a more efficient way to complete necessary forms and move cases through the Courts more quickly," McGuire said.

Future developments for this courtroom include the ability to access specific cases through iAttorney® and create pre-populated forms based on the information specific to that case.

"We are also working on the option for electronic signature by the Judge and for that document to be secured and automatically sent to our Case Management System that the attorneys can access through iAttorney, or be printed in the courtroom for the defendant," said McGuire.



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As you can see from the stories in this newsletter, Will County is on the move. We are moving forward on the new Public Safety Complex which will strengthen the efficiency of our Sheriff's operations as well as our 9-1-1 services. Will County is a unique county with a blend of rural and metropolitan areas. We are proud to work together to ensure all residents are protected equally.

We also continue to enhance our technology to bring services to our residents and improve our functions. With new technology such as the E-courtroom and online permitting, we are streamlining county operations and maintaining our commitment to quality services for our residents.

With the holiday season approaching, I wish all of our residents much health and prosperity. I am blessed to call Will County home and look forward to many more years of continued success.

I encourage you to sign up to receive these newsletters electronically at www.willcountyillinois.com and keep up to date about new information about Will County government.

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Animal Control

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Community Development

Division of Transportation

Emergency Management Agency

Finance

Geographic Information Systems

Health Department

Human Resources

Information Technology

Land Use

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Records Management

Stormwater Management

Sunny Hill Nursing Home

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Workforce Services Division