Will County, Illinois

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County gets $63,000 from ComEd, Nicor

Money awarded for energy-conscious new construction

Will County was awarded more than $63,000 through ComEd and Nicor’s New Construction Program for energy-efficient design and construction of the county’s new 86,000-square-foot Public Safety Complex and Sheriff’s Department.

The check was presented during the County Board’s regularly scheduled monthly meeting on March 15.

According to ComEd and Nicor officials, Will County leadership used methods in the construction of the Public Safety Complex that go above and beyond the requirements of the Illinois Energy Conservation Code (IECC), especially in the building’s insulation and windows. For each step beyond the minimum IECC requirements an entity takes in the design of a new facility, the two utilities award incentives.

“I am proud of Will County’s efforts to embrace energy efficiency protocol in building this new Public Safety Complex,” said Will County Executive Larry Walsh. “We are always expected to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. By using 21st century technology, the county will realize significant savings in operating costs for this building well into the future.”

The largest portion of the county’s energy incentive was earned through the use of high R-value insulation product in the roof and walls, which yielded more than $26,000. R-values measure the effectiveness of insulation. Installing energy efficient windows added nearly $18,000 to the incentive. The addition of high R-value doors, a reduced number of light fixtures, and a 93 percent efficient natural gas boiler increased the incentive by $19,000. This cash incentive reflects a portion of what the County will save in energy costs over time, which is estimated at more than $16,000 annually.

“Will County was presented with a check for more than $63,000 during the March 15 County Board meeting.

“The initial investments the county made in energy efficient practices in the construction of the Public Safety Complex will be cost effective for many years to come,” said Ray Tuminello, chairman of the County Board’s Capital Improvements Committee. “Will County will continue to employ green practices in our future capital projects because it benefits both our constituents and the environment.”

“As former chairman of the Capital Improvements Committee, I am happy to see the county following best practices for energy-efficient construction and operation of our new facilities,” said County Board Member Denise Winfrey.

“We will continue to employ energy efficient strategies as we move forward on the largest capital campaign in our county’s history, which includes a state-of-the-art county courthouse and health department,” said Walsh. “We are investing today to prepare for the future of our county.”
Community forum to focus on substance use

ROMEUVILLE - Laura Porter will speak about the effect of childhood trauma on substance use during the 2018 Hero Helps Community Forum.

The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, at the Edward Hospital Athletic and Event Center, 55 Phelps Road.

This year’s event will bring together all of the efforts being made toward reducing opioid use and overdoses in Will County and across Illinois.

The seventh annual event will again be sponsored by HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization) and Will County HELPS (Heroin Education Leads to Preventative Solutions) as well as the Village of Romeoville and the Southwest Coalition.

“Laura Porter, our keynote speaker, will discuss the effect of childhood trauma on substance use,” said Paul Lauridsen, co-chairman of the event.

“Laura Porter will speak about the effect of childhood trauma on substance use which the Center for Disease Control has widely reported.

Dr. Nirav Shah, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, will speak about work of the Illinois Opioid Task Force and Maria Bruni, Associate Secretary with the Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, will share details of the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council.

CPDU’s, CME’s and CEU’s are being provided for education, medical, social work professionals, licensed professional counselors and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support professionals.

Narcan training to be offered as part of annual forum

Training on the delivery of naloxone, or Narcan, will be available to the public at this year’s substance use forum.

Dr. Kathleen Burke, Director of Substance Use Initiatives under the Will County Executive’s office, has been offering this training across the country.

“Two doses of Narcan/naloxone can be a life or death option for someone who has overdosed on opiates.” Burke said. “Learning to recognize signs and symptoms of overdose and how to properly administer naloxone will be discussed.

“With the introduction of fentanyl into our communities, it is more important than ever to have as many bystanders trained to administer Narcan as possible.”

Register at http://www.herohelpsswc.org to ensure adequate supplies are available.

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Kathleen Burke
Director of Substance Use Initiatives under the Will County Executive’s office.
**Continued from Page 2**

**Wednesday, May 16** – 10 a.m. to noon, SOA exemption event, Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Road, Joliet.

**Thursday, May 17** – 9:30 a.m., monthly County Board meeting.

**Friday, May 11** – 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Hero Helps Community Forum, at Edwards Hospital Events and Athletic Center, 55 Phelps Road, Romeoville.

**Saturday, May 12** – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., EMA will present information on making emergency preparations for your pets at Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant’s Pet Expo in Plainfield.

**Thursday, May 17** – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., SOA exemption event at Romeoville Recreation Center, 900 W. Romeo Road, Romeoville.

**Continued on Page 4**

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**Bolingbrook first Will County community to adopt Tobacco 21**

Bolingbrook has become the first “Tobacco 21” municipality in Will County after the Village Board passed an ordinance in February that makes it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under 21.

This includes cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar said, “There’s a ton of statistics that show smoking often begins between the ages of 15 and 21. But if they don’t have access to tobacco, the chance that they’ll start dramatically goes down.”

Community Health Educators at the Will County Health Department’s Family Health Services Division are hoping that Bolingbrook’s action will lead to other Will County communities considering similar legislations.

The Health Department’s Tobacco Control and Prevention Program is available to offer technical assistance to municipalities.

“We have tool kits with resources, sample ordinances, infographics, and other valuable information to assist Will County communities,” the Health Department’s Cindy Jackson stated.

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**Helpful phone apps**

Will County EMA recently launched a partnership with Nextdoor, a social media network that will connect the agency with about 50,000 residents. For more, go to www.nextdoor.com.

EMA’s free emergency preparedness app is available in the Apple App and Google Play stores. Search for Ready Will County and download it.
Joliet Township partnered with Will County to support the Safe Passage initiative by presenting the county a $150,000 grant to help pay for the program, which facilitates rapid entry into substance abuse treatment for opioid abusers.

Safe Passage also serves as a crime prevention strategy and deflects people addicted to drugs away from the criminal justice system.

Through the Will County Safe Passage Initiative, any resident who suffers with an opiate addiction can go to one of the participating police departments and ask for help. Currently, the program is being offered through the Braidwood, Lemont, Lockport, Mokena and Romeoville police departments.

Dr. Kathleen Burke, Director of Substance Use Initiatives coordinates the program through the County Executive’s office.

“I am proud Joliet Township has agreed to partner with us on this important program,” said County Executive Larry Walsh. “Opiate addiction is claiming more lives each year. The key to reducing overdose deaths is to get people into treatment. This program offers a way for people to access treatment without having to get arrested and into our judicial system.”

Thanks to the Joliet Township grant, Safe Passage will be able to offer social work support services to assist the participating police departments in quickly assessing services for clients of the Safe Passage program. Social workers will be on call 24 hours a day to facilitate smooth transitions into treatment.

The grant will also support expansion of the program to other interested communities and support treatment costs for the uninsured or underinsured.

“‘We understand the importance of this program and we are happy to be able to help support this effort,’ said Dan Vera, Joliet Township supervisor. ‘The opioid crisis has a broad reach across the entire country and we are proud to work with Will County to reduce opioid deaths.”

After meeting with an individual in the police department, a social worker will be able to assess which type of service is needed and be able to make arrangements for detox, medically assisted treatment, inpatient or outpatient care. The social worker will assist with insurance issues and provide comprehensive care management for long term recovery.

“It is critical to connect someone who has come into one of our participating police departments with services as quickly as possible,” said Burke. “We are grateful to Joliet Township for this generous donation. This will enable us to sustain and expand this program to help as many people as we can.

“Recovery is a lifelong process. Having this social work support of the Safe Passage program will allow for a continuum of care that will encourage success.”
Friday, June 8 - EMA will participate in Lockport Park District’s Touch-a-Truck event at Dellwood Park in Lockport. Time TBA.

Saturday, June 9 – 8 a.m. to noon, EMA will participate in Rep. Mark Batnick’s Children’s Safety Expo at Plainfield Central High School in Plainfield.

Thursday, June 21 – 9:30 a.m., monthly County Board Meeting.

### Safest cities in Illinois

Did you know that two of the five safest cities in Illinois are in Will County?

The National Council for Home Security and Safety puts Channahon and Homer Glen in the Top 5.

The top five are in order,

1. Western Springs,
2. Channahon,
3. Campton Hills,
4. Waterloo and
5. Homer Glen.

For additional information, go to: https://www.alarms.org/safest-cities-in-illinois-2018/

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Will County hosts visit from Illinois Realtors Association

A group of about 50 members of the Illinois Realtors Association visited with Will County officials in January.

The event was an exchange of information between a number of county offices, including the County Executive, the County Board, the Supervisor of Assessments, the Recorder of Deeds, the County Treasurer, and the Circuit Courts.

“This was an important event to connect county government with local business,” said Will County Executive Larry Walsh.

“Our local Realtors are, in essence, selling the attributes of Will County to the public who wish to do business or live here.

“We are proud to work with the Illinois Realtors Association to show the great services available in Will County. We hope to have more events like this in the future.”

The day began with a welcome and thank you from Walsh to the Realtors. He explained how his office manages the day-to-day operations of county government.

Chuck Maher, Will County Board Majority Leader, spoke to the realtors about the role of the county board, as the legislative body, in shaping policy in Will County.

“This was a very positive event, having the

Realtors get a better understanding of how county government interacts with their profession,” Maher said.

“It also helps us, as policy makers, to see the impact of those policies on their industry and the constituents we both serve.”

Rhonda Novak, Supervisor of Assessments, shared updates about her office’s website. She said many of the important documents realtors need are available online.

Karen Stukel, Recorder of Deeds, explained the duties of her office and how her office can assist the Realtors.

Brian McDaniel, from County Treasurer Steve Weber’s office, described the office’s role in the tax process.

The group also visited the Circuit Courts and heard from Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt. He explained the courts’ function in real estate transactions and the foreclosure process.

Gideon Blustein, local government affairs director of the Illinois Realtors Association, said he appreciated the support from Will County on this event. He said the exchange of information is very important to the association members.

“Will County officials have traditionally been supportive of our association and its members,” Blustein said.

“Giving our members an opportunity to meet our officials and ask questions will have a direct effect on our future success. When communities are cooperative and strong, everyone has the chance to be successful.”
The calendar says it’s spring, and the days are getting longer and warmer. It’s a good time to live in the Midwest, where trees and fields will be soon be green.

Here in Will County, our staff will be enjoying life, while at the same time keeping an eye on today and into the future.

The County received a check for more than $63,000 from ComEd and Nicor for the energy-efficient construction built into our new Public Safety Complex. Our estimated utility savings will be $16,000 annually. As we go forward with our other capital projects, the new Courthouse and the Health Department building, residents can rest assured we will also be looking at ways to cut our energy costs.

Unfortunately, Will County is not immune from the opioid crisis gripping our nation. We have not been sitting idly by as our residents overdose. Once again, HERO and HELPS, in conjunction with Southwest Coalition and the Village of Romeoville will host a community forum. Dr. Kathleen Burke, a member of my staff, will teach people how to administer Narcan, a lifesaving drug that can reverse an overdose.

Joliet Township has joined our fight against this scourge, giving the County a $150,000 grant to our Safe Passage program. Safe Passage allows substance users who wish to get clean to go to a participating police station and ask for help without fear of being arrested. The police and an on-call social worker will help the substance user get into a treatment program. So far, five police departments have signed on, and we’re hoping others will opt to participate. This program will not only save lives, but also keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Enjoy spring and all the season has to offer Will County.

Message from Will County Executive Larry Walsh

Departments under the Will County Executive Office

- 9-1-1 Board
- Animal Control
- Board of Review
- Communications
- Building Maintenance
- 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