

ECIDC SPRING 2026

ECIDC-IL.ORG

MARCH 30, 2026

Education that
fits your *Schedule*

Lake Land College is exploring new ways to make education more accessible—and they want community input to help guide the process. As part of the College's Strategic Plan, Lake Land is working to develop class schedules that better fit the needs of today's students, including those balancing work, family, and other responsibilities.

Residents are invited to complete a brief, three-minute survey to share feedback on class timing and course options. Survey responses will be used to help shape future schedules that make it easier for students to fit education into their lives. As a thank-you for participating, respondents will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift voucher to the Laker Nest Bookstore.

The survey is open during the months of April, May, and June. To participate, simply scan the QR code or visit <https://www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/ProspStu26>. Your input will help Lake Land College continue providing education that truly fits your schedule.



Spotlight: City of Sullivan

Over the last decade, the City of Sullivan has emerged as a true example of what intentional planning, local commitment, and community pride can achieve. Sullivan has embraced progress while staying true to its small-town character, and worked hard to improve the quality of life of its residents. This spotlight celebrates the many changes that have taken place and the forward-thinking approach that continues to move Sullivan ahead.



Join The Waiting List Now



NORTH POINT HOMES OF SULLIVAN
618-803-0233

New construction homes for rent coming soon!
Maximum income limits apply.

1, 2, and 3-bedroom units available!

Please visit our website to learn more or join the waiting list!

<http://livebedrock.com/north-point-homes>

Recent Updates:

- Referendum passed on March 17th to change to Manager Form of Government
- The North Point Homes LIHTC project (37 units across 24 buildings on 21 scattered sites) is fully under roof, including the acquisition and removal of blighted properties to support neighborhood revitalization. By combining private and public funds to complete needed community development projects, Sullivan has achieved its goal of adding 100 housing units within a decade—accomplished in just 8 years.
- OSLAD Grant Round 2 for improvements to Wyman Park, including upgrades to ballfields, ADA accessibility, habitat enhancements, and walking paths construction will begin June 2026.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville dredging project has officially begun, ensuring continued access to the Sullivan end of the lake and supporting local tourism and recreation-based businesses.
- The Little Theatre On The Square has announced its 2026 Summer Season, with tickets now on sale for Main Stage and Theatre for Young Audiences productions. www.thelittletheatre.org for tickets and more information.
- Organizational rebranding for Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development to Sullivan Community Development to better reflect expanded services in economic development, community development, tourism, and business support.
- Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development, in partnership with Business of Childcare, increased childcare capacity by 78%, achieved 100% provider retention, and increased participation in the ExceleRate Illinois quality program by 300%.
- Sullivan has secured infrastructure investment through multiple Illinois Department of Transportation programs, including the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), Economic Development Program (EDP), Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), and Safe Routes to School, supporting transportation improvements, pedestrian safety, and business growth.

Open Interview Day

Effingham County

Step In. Stand Out. Get Hired.

Meet local employers.
Explore real workplaces.
Don't just apply online. **SHOW UP.**

 **Thursday, April 23**

Scan to see participating businesses + details



More Information
(217) 342-414
EffinghamCountyChamber.com/event

SUMMER SEASON 2026



Guys and Dolls - June 4-14



Little Shop Of Horrors
June 18-28



Greater Tuna - July 2-12



Annie - July 16-26



Come From Away
July 30 to August 9



Route 66 - August 13-23



June 9, 11, 12, 13



July 7, 9, 10, 11

THEATRE
FOR YOUNG
AUDIENCES



August 4, 6, 7, 8

SEASON AND SINGLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
www.thelittletheatre.org
Box Office 217-728-7375

EVENTS



YOU ARE INVITED!

WHO: All community members

WHAT: Open House @ Green Mill Village
Hotel & Suites

WHY: To meet the General Manager &
view potential meeting spaces

WHEN: Wed. April 22, 2026, from
5pm-7pm

WHERE: 917 Green Mill Rd.
Arcola -in the Convention Center

Mattoon City-Wide Cleanup

When: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Where: Mattoon Yard Waste
Facility

(Shelby Ave and Logan St)

Who: Mattoon residents only

**Collecting non-hazardous solid
waste and electronics!**

Senior citizens and residents with
disabilities can call 217-235-5171 to
request collection at their home
on a case-by-case basis.

City of Charleston Citywide Spring Clean Up Day!

When: Saturday, May 16, 2026
7a.m.-12p.m.

Where: 1200 W Madison Ave.
(Leaf & Limb Drop off)

Who: Charleston residents only
Only accepting non-hazardous solid
waste. For questions, email
Cityhall@co.coles.il.us or visit
<https://www.charlestonillinois.org/>

2026 Funding Opportunities

The new year brings a new round of grant opportunities for communities to take advantage of. The IL Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity recently announced they are adding more funding to the **Capital Ready Regional Site Readiness Program** and have extended the open date to April 30, 2026. The additional \$30 million will ensure that more regions across the state will be able to better prepare for industrial economic development projects.

The **Opportunity Zone** program was adjusted and made permanent in 2025. The federal Opportunity Zone (OZ) program is designed to attract private investment to historically underinvested census tracts by offering developers tax breaks on capital gains. The State of Illinois will be reviewing and recommending census tracts for designation, which will take effect starting in January 2027.

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced the availability of \$24 million in grant funding to support the creation of six new **Manufacturing Training Academies (MTAs)** at community colleges in Illinois' downstate regions. The initiative aims to expand workforce training for high-demand manufacturing careers. Grant recipients will be chosen through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process. Eligible applicants include community colleges located outside of Cook County and the collar counties, excluding institutions that have previously received MTA awards. Through this competitive NOFO, qualified applicants may seek grant awards ranging from \$3 million to \$6 million.

New rounds for **Public Infrastructure** and **Housing Rehabilitation** through the CDBG program have also been announced. These applications will be due August 26, 2026 to DCEO. \$1.5 million has been made available for this round of PI funding, while \$800,000 is available for Housing Rehabilitation. The maximum amount allowed per home has been raised to \$70,000.

CCRP&DC Updates:

Coles County

The county's Comprehensive Plan is in its last stages, having been sent to the Steering Committee for final review. The County Board will host a public meeting regarding the plan on Tuesday, April 14, at 5:30pm to discuss the draft plan before it can be voted on by the Board. CCRP has been working on the plan since February 2024.

City of Mattoon

The most recent Steering Committee meeting for the Mattoon Comprehensive Plan was March 26. This meeting focused on future land use and a review of the city's priorities based on the 2013 plan. Over 800 survey responses have been received! CCRP hopes to have a rough draft available for review by the end of May.

Waste Reduction

CCRP is also working on a comprehensive Regional Homelessness Plan for the South Central Illinois Continuum of Care (SCILCoC). This plan will evaluate system performance, housing needs, resource gaps, and 18 county regional coordination. The plan is funded by the IL Homelessness Response Collaborative.