

# COUNTY OF KANE

Public Information Office  
Kane County Board Office



Kane County Government Center  
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Media Release

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## New Garden at Government Center to Benefit Local Food Pantries

As soon as the season has its final frost, a volunteer garden will start to sprout at the Kane County Government Center campus.

Kurt Lebo is the County's Spatial Solutions Officer but also has somewhat of a green thumb and volunteers with a community group in Warrenville. The group grows vegetables and donates their harvest to local food pantries.



"The garden is low maintenance and gives back to the community," said Lebo. "When you drop off the vegetables there are lots of people waiting. They are quick to scoop them up and happy to have access to fresh vegetables."

He says he thought a similar set up in Kane County would help provide fresh, locally grown produce that could be donated to area food pantries and also bring County employees together.

"You see a lot of people walking through the parking lot but you don't have the opportunity to meet people, typically," said Lebo. "I thought this would at least give those people who like to fiddle around outside an opportunity to get to know each other and build some camaraderie between County departments."

He approached Kane County Board Chairwoman Corinne Pierog about dedicating a piece of land for the garden and brought Clair Ryan, the County's Recycling Coordinator and County Planner Matt Tansley on board. The team searched for a site that had a good water source, topography and a workable shade profile.

A 24X24 foot plot was chosen near the County Clerk's office on the Government Center campus in Geneva.

Tomato and pepper seedlings for the garden have already starting sprouting. They have been growing in containers in the sun-filled cupola of the historic Cole Pope house which is located just west of the main Government building.

The team is now working to collect donated tools including shovels, a hose, fencing, topsoil and a timber wall to make the garden look nice. They are also looking for interested county staff members who work at the Geneva campus to volunteer. They need people to prep the site, plant, weed, collect the harvest and deliver it to the local food pantries.



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This would be an all-volunteer effort with no cost to the county, just the use of the land. "We would be working on the garden on weekends and before and after work," said Lebo.

The team expects to be able to donate to local food pantries once or twice a week with several dozen pounds of fresh produce to offer.

If you have questions about the garden, about donating or becoming a volunteer contact Matt Tansley at [tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us](mailto:tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us).

A list of needed items can be found here <https://bit.ly/KCGarden>

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