

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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FUNDS BENEFIT FIRST RESPONDERS

Ameren Illinois is proud to give back to the communities we call home. Liberty Fire Protection District received a \$2,000 grant from Ameren Illinois to purchase ice rescue suits for first responders.

“Responding to an ice or cold water rescue emergency is a dangerous and potentially deadly situation,” said Jeff King, fire chief at Liberty Fire Protection District. “Thanks to Ameren Illinois, the new suits will keep our first responders warm and dry while performing these life-saving missions.”



Fire Chief Jeff King, left, accepts a \$2,000 contribution on behalf of Liberty Fire Protection District from Community Relations Executive Kenny Blum, Ameren Illinois.

Equipment donations will help food pantries, families across Illinois

Many food pantries have seen an increase in the need for assistance since the beginning of the pandemic — and this meant an increased need for safe food storage.

Ameren Illinois is proud to donate new, energy-efficient refrigerator/freezers to 26 food pantries across our service territory. The energy-efficient equipment will aid the pantries in storing and supplying healthy, perishable food to families in need. The ENERGY STAR® 17 cu. ft. upright convertible refrigerator/freezer will not only allow the pantries to serve more families in need, it will also help them save on energy costs.

As part of the EmPowered Pantries Program, the food pantries also received a free smart thermostat and facility assessment to identify energy-efficient opportunities to improve comfort, manage usage and reduce costs.



AmerenCares

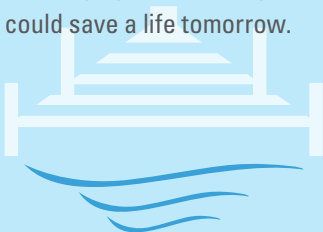
These donations were made possible through AmerenCares, which connects Ameren Illinois with communities through charitable giving and volunteering. A key focus of the program is to partner with nonprofit organizations to improve the quality of life in Ameren Illinois' service territory.

PREVENT DEADLY SHOCKS – CHECK BOATS AND DOCKS

As temperatures begin to soar, many of us seek summer fun on the water. If you own a boat or dock, take steps to keep friends and family safe from electric shock drowning (ESD). This hidden hazard can occur when electricity leaks into the water from faulty wiring on a boat, dock or swimming pool.

To help prevent ESD tragedies, make sure that all electrical installations and maintenance on docks and boats are performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards. These systems should also be inspected by a professional at least once a year. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be installed to protect against electric shock anywhere water could come into contact with electricity.

The steps you take today could save a life tomorrow.



Ameren Illinois expands grid in Nashville, Illinois

To create a more resilient, reliable electric grid, Ameren Illinois recently completed a substation expansion project near Illinois Route 127 just outside of Nashville. The \$9.8 million investment will enhance service reliability and support future residential and business growth.

Crews reconfigured the site by splitting the existing transmission line into two sections, giving it two sources of power. The upgraded site will allow power to be rerouted among other substations if an outage occurs. Workers also replaced two wooden pole transmission line structures with steel structures.

This Nashville project is part of our overall statewide plan to build a cleaner, greener, more resilient grid. With these enhancements along Route 127, Ameren Illinois is taking proactive steps to prepare for the future needs of electric customers in and around Washington County.



The enhancements in Nashville are part of Ameren Illinois' multi-year initiative to modernize its energy delivery system. Since 2012, the company has implemented hundreds of projects, added new technology and strengthened poles, wires and distribution equipment. As a result, reliability has improved by an average of 22% and the average duration of an outage has been reduced by 16%.



ICC

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION CONSIDERS RATE REQUEST

In April, Ameren Illinois filed for an adjustment to its electric delivery service rates for next year. The filing is subject to a rigorous, eight-month review by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). If approved by the ICC, new rates will take effect in 2022.

Ameren Illinois customers have seen several rate decreases in recent years. The April filing is only the second requested increase in delivery service rates in six years. If approved by the ICC, the adjustment would add about \$2.75 per month to the delivery portion of residential customer bills next year. Factoring in this adjustment, Ameren Illinois electric rates will be 21% lower than the national average and customers will continue to pay less for energy service than they did five years ago.



To minimize trenching and excavating, crews working in Champaign use the directional boring technique to install as much of the new corrosion-resistant polyethylene pipeline as possible.

Natural gas system modernization continues in Champaign, Macoupin County

Ameren Illinois customers in Champaign are seeing energy at work firsthand this summer as crews replace vintage steel pipeline and natural gas services with modern, corrosion-resistant polyethylene material.

In spring, crews began replacing approximately 11 miles of natural gas pipeline and approximately 900 individual customers' natural gas services on the city's west and southwest sides. This \$6.7 million improvement project should be completed by December.

Meanwhile, in Macoupin County, customers will benefit from an \$8.7 million modernization project that is nearing completion. Along a 2.4-mile stretch of natural gas transmission pipeline from the company's I-55 station site to its Phillips Station in Staunton, crews upgraded 1960s vintage pipeline with modern 8-inch steel pipeline.

As we look to the future, we are building a robust energy delivery system that meets the needs of customers throughout our service territory, while supporting economic development in the communities we serve.



EV 101: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES

It's no surprise that electric vehicles (EVs) are growing in popularity. EVs are fun to drive, easy to charge, and cost less to fuel and maintain. In fact, the average EV driver saves up to \$1,300 a year on fuel costs alone.

As your source for EV information, Ameren Illinois invites you to a free, virtual event that will put you on the fast track to driving electric. In this introduction to EVs, you will learn about:

- *Benefits of driving electric*
- *Types of EVs on the market*
- *Upcoming models*
- *How to charge the vehicle*
- *How much you can expect to save*
- *Ameren Illinois EV programs*

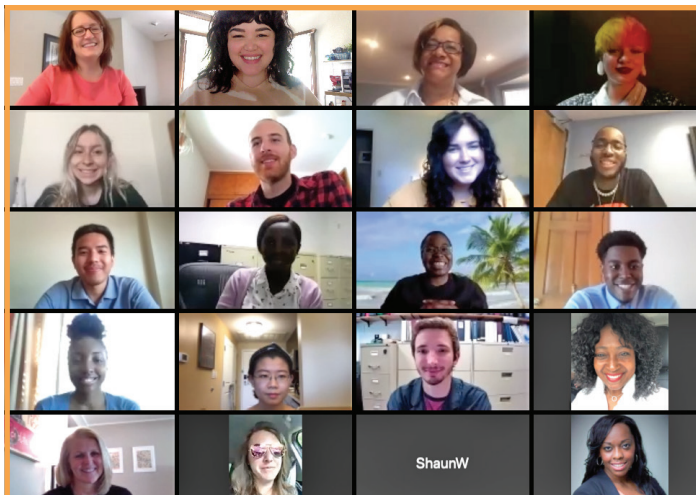
Bring your questions to a live, virtual Q&A session with our EV experts. Several dates will be offered for this interactive online event at the registration webpage below.



Ready to learn the ABCs of EVs?

Register at **EVeent.org/EV101**

Learn more at **AmerenIllinois.com/EV**



Internship program earns industry accolades

Every year, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) Inspiring Efficiency Awards recognize individuals and businesses that have shown exemplary leadership in advancing energy efficiency across the Midwest. In March, Ameren Illinois was proud to claim the 2021 Education Award for our unique Energy Efficiency Internship Program.

Launched in 2018, our internship program offers hands-on training, industry-related education, mentorship from industry professionals, networking and skill-building. The goal is to help graduating high school students and career-transitioning professionals secure a full-time position in the energy efficiency industry.

During the summer of 2020, when many organizations were scaling back on their internship programs, Ameren Illinois found a way to offer a high-quality virtual learning experience for 15 students.

Our internship program is one way we are helping to build a more robust and diverse energy efficiency workforce in the state of Illinois.

Learn more by visiting **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/MDI**.