

SPRING 22

A quarterly publication of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Report

CREATURES OF LIGHT

NATURE'S BIOLUMINESCENCE

OPENS MAY 28, 2022

PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM

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Organized by the American Museum of Natural History, NYC



PEORIA
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B&R Consulting // Insurance // bnrconsultingllc.com

Beard Bros Grooming Products LLC // beardbrothers.com

Bella Rose Studio LLC // Photographer // facebook.com/memoriesbybellarose

Care-Connectors // Health Care // care-connectors.com

Detail Peoria // Automotive // detailpeoria.com

Gallery Homes Real Estate // Real Estate // galleryhomesusa.com

Genghis Grill // Restaurant // genghisgrill.com

Grand View Alzheimer's Special Care Center // Senior Living // sinceriseniorliving.com/grand-view

Hanauer Law Office, LLC // Legal Services // hanauerlaw.com

Haven on the Farm // Banquet/Wedding Facilities // havenonthefarm.com

Hounds Town Peoria // Pets // houndstownusa.com

IDG Architects, Inc. // Architects // idgarch.com

Illinois Valley Fuller Center For Housing // Community & Non-Profit Organization // ivfuller.com

Kellehers Irish Pub & Eatery // Restaurant // kellehersirishpub.com

Kurent Safety & Industrial Supply // Industrial Distributor // kurentsafety.com

M3 Creative Portraits // Photographer // m3creativellc.com

Meltdown Creative Works Inc // Marketing Services // meltdowncreative.com

Mid Illinois Mechanical, Inc. // Contractors // midilmech.com

Oak Street Health // Health Care // oakstreethealth.com

Paul Davis Restoration // Construction Management // centralillinoisrestoration.com

Peoria Spine & Sport // Chiropractic Care // peoriaspineandsport.com

Pringle Robotics // Information Technology & Systems // pringlesoft.com

Pure Oasis Hair & Beauty Salon // Health & Beauty // pureoasis.com

Reditus Labs // Laboratory Services // redituslabs.com

Soulful Odyssey // Travel Agency // soulfulodyssey.com

Springfield Clinic // Health Care // springfieldclinic.com

Streamline Architects & Artisans // Architects // streamlinearchitects.com

Surestay Plus Hotel by Bestwestern // Hotel // bestwestern.com

United Rentals // Contractors // unitedrentals.com

ViMedicus, Inc. // Health Care // vicarehealth.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

Business Before Hours

4th Tuesday of each month // 7:30-9:00am

April 26 // National Youth Advocate Program

May 24 // Almost Home Kids - OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois

June 28 // TBD

July 26 // INB

Business After Hours

2nd Thursday of each month // 4:30-6:30pm

April 14 // Scottish Rite Theatre

May 12 // Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum & Peoria Park District

June 9 // Peoria Production Solutions

July 7 // Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen

Annual Events

Sponsorships Available—Contact us!

State of the Schools // May 4 // Register Now!

Golf Outing // May 23 // Register Now!

State of the City // June 15 // Register Now!

Thanksgiving Luncheon // Nov 17 // Info Coming Soon!

Initiatives

Watch for Updates & Events on our Calendar & Social Media

The Big Table: Greater Peoria

Greater Peoria 2030

Chambers All-In

CREATURES OF LIGHT

NATURE'S BIOLUMINESCENCE

MAY 28, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

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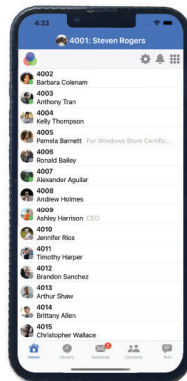
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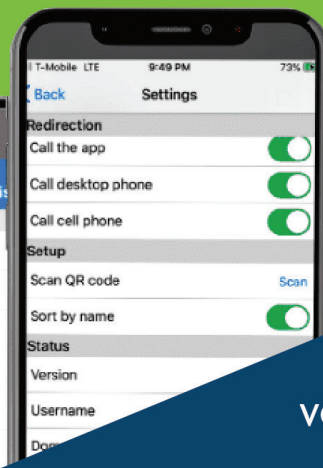
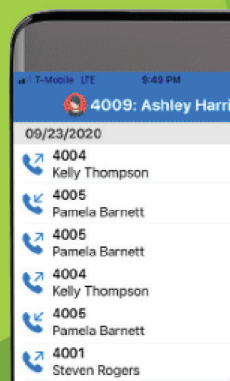
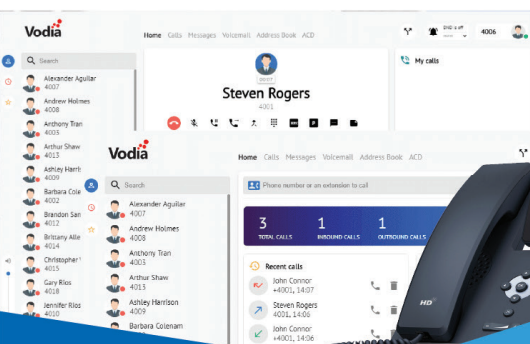
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring is here; three words that bring a smile to most anyone's face, but they especially bring joy to those of us here in Peoria as we make our way out of a long, cold winter. As someone who still feels very new to the area, I still quite enjoy the winters - particularly the snow, which is a rarity where I came from (North Carolina.) Yet, even I will admit, it sure is nice to see warmer temperatures and sunny skies.

I also like to think, that the metaphorical "spring" is here for us all as it relates to transitioning beyond the COVID era, and into a new season where things will be a lot brighter. I am not naïve, and understand that COVID is still with us, and we continue to navigate many of its challenges and lingering impacts; however, it does feel like we are turning the corner. I have been accused of being a bit too optimistic at times, but I am feeling great about where we are headed as a region, and as a nation.

When the Spring comes and the grass turns green, we start to see flowers bloom in places we had long forgotten flowers were previously. Birds that we have seen our whole lives, somehow reappear and bring us joy as if it was our first time seeing a bird at all. The "winter" that we endured as a community during COVID, might have had a similar effect. It is possible to forget how many amazing "flowers" we have in this community. Those "flowers" are the smiling faces of people passing us downtown or at a festive holiday parade. Other "flowers" are also the thousands of businesses we are accustomed to

patronizing when things are "normal." We may have allowed ourselves to forget about those "flowers," because COVID made it harder than usual for them to bloom. We may not even remember how they looked, what they gave us, or where they are; it is the winter after all, that makes the spring feel so special.

With this in mind, I write to you this quarter with a challenge. I challenge all of us, to search for those "flowers" that have fought so hard to "bloom" during the long winter of COVID. Go ahead: take a step out of your routine and support a business that you have not supported in a while. You might want to drive a different route home and look for a "flower in bloom:" a business you have not ever shopped before and give them your support. Maybe even try hard and recall a place that you use to go, a "flower" that you used to appreciate, and revisit that business like old times. Our business community fought hard to survive, and now that we are turning this corner, let us all do our part to ensure that the comeback is even better than it was before.

Let's not let the clocks be the only thing that "springs forward" this year.



Joshua Gunn
President & CEO



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Illinois Session Update

The House was back in Springfield recently while the Senate was off. The House took limited floor action aside from announcements and resolutions with most work occurring in Committees. The lower chamber did welcome two guest speakers for addresses to the body, the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. March 25th was the deadline to get bills originating in the opposite chamber out of committee in both the House and the Senate. Upcoming sessions are expected to be busy.

- View the **Senate Committee schedule** at www.ilga.gov/senate/schedules.
- View the **House committee schedule** at www.ilga.gov/house/schedules

Bills of Interest

(More information: www.ilga.gov/legislation)

- **SB 62, RUUPA Payroll Card**
- **SB 645, Sick Leave**
- **SB 2803, UI Trust Fund**
- **SB 2963, INS Group Life**
- **SB 2984, Youth Entrepreneur**
- **SB 3120, Bereavement Leave**
- **SB 3146, One Day Rest in Seven**
- **SB 3416, Occupational Safety and Health Act Violations**

(IL Chamber's full 102nd GA Key Bills List: www.ilchamber.org/government-affairs/key-legislation)

Other News & Updates

Chamber Day 2022 Recap

On March 2nd the Illinois Chamber of Commerce held its' 5th Annual Chamber Day at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel where House Speaker, Emanuel "Chris" Welch, House Republican Leader Jim Durkin and finally, Mayor of Springfield, Jim Langfelder were welcomed. Senate President Harmon and Senate Republican Leader McConchie gave brief virtual addresses as they were not in town for Session this week. Topics of the day included unemployment insurance, Governor Pritzker's proposed budget, and discussions on crime.

Regional Planning to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE) Program is open:

Through the launch of the (RISE) initiative, the State will offer competitive grants to help local governments and economic development organizations (EDOs) create new regional or local plans to promote economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The NOFO application is open and will continue accepting applications through May 9, 2022.

Expanding Access to Capital in Illinois:

How Illinois Financial Institutions can drive profit and purpose through the Illinois Advantage Illinois Loan Program: Advantage Illinois provides low interest loans to small businesses in Illinois for start-up costs, working capital, equipment, and inventory. DCEO is looking to add more banks as lenders and are holding information sessions for banks to learn how they can participate in this program using their own underwriting standards and loan processes. Through the American Rescue Plan, the State Small Business Credit initiative (SSBCI), recently received an increase in funding to help bolster access to capital in Minority Communities.

(All Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunities (DCEO) can be found at: www2.illinois.gov/dceo)

Illinois General Primary Election: June 28

- Petitions have began circulating.
- Each potential candidate must file enough petition signatures to reach a designated threshold and make their candidacy official. The number of signatures depends on the race, with larger numbers being required for larger jurisdictions.

More information for potential candidates & voters:

- **Illinois State Board of Elections:**
www.elections.il.gov
- **Peoria County Elections Commission:**
www.peoriaelections.gov

Former Illinois House Speaker

Michael Madigan pleads not guilty during March 9 arraignment.

Former Illinois State Senator Tom Cullerton pled guilty in embezzlement case.

The IRS paused use of the Child Tax Credit online portal until the end of this tax season due to confusion over who should be using the portal.

U.S. inflation jumps 7.9 percent over the past year – a 40-year high.

TSA extended mask mandate on planes and public transit through April 18.

Sources:

APNews | APNews.com //
NBC Chicago | NBCChicago.com/News //
WGN | WGNtv.com/News //

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RIBBON-CUTTINGS



Pure Oasis Hair & Beauty Salon

Congratulations, Jamar, on the Grand Opening of Pure Oasis Hair and Beauty Salon! Welcome to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce!



Dream Center Peoria

Congratulations to Dream Center Peoria on the completion of their new commercial kitchen! In addition to serving homeless and hungry Peorians, the kitchen will be used by junior high and high school students who dream of working in the restaurant industry.



Radish Kitchen

Radish Kitchen celebrates the Grand Opening of their new Campustown location. Congratulations, Jam! Thank you for your membership!



Bella Rose Studio

Celebrating the Grand Opening of Bella Rose Studio at Northwoods Mall. Welcome to the Chamber, Joshua!

RIBBON-CUTTINGS



That Guy's Secret

Donations, libations and congratulations! We had a great time at the ribbon-cutting at Northwoods Mall, for That Guy's Secret. What's the secret? Stop in to find out—upper level by JC Penney. Welcome to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, Jeremy!



The Beauty Lounge

Congratulations, Melissa, on the Grand Opening of the new location of The Beauty Lounge, at Junction City. We wish you much success! Thank you for your membership!



Phoenix Community Development Services

Phoenix Community Development Services celebrates the dedication and ribbon-cutting for Madison Apartments!

Want to host a ribbon-cutting for your business?
Request one at peoriachamber.org under the Member Center menu

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Associates in Mental Health, SC is pleased to announce the addition of Caleb H. Fredrich, LCSW to their clinical team. Friedrich graduated from **Eureka College** before getting his Master's in social work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's School of Social Work in 2016. He spent 5 years as a therapist for the **Children's Home Association** in both the residential and community-based programs.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is honoring Sexual Assault Awareness month in April by hosting its 5th annual 5Krun/1 mile walk, 1 run with Survivors on Saturday, April 9 at 8am in the Levee District in East Peoria. More information can be found on their website <https://raceroster.com/events/2022/55903/i-run-with-survivors>

Center for Prevention of Abuse Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois awarded the **Center for Prevention of Abuse** (CFPA) with a Community Partner Grant of \$50,000 for Violence Prevention Education services. The grant will help fund three Prevention Education programs including relationship abuse, sexual abuse, and bullying. The programs educate pre-kindergarten through high school students, as well as teachers and families about building healthy relationships, recognizing sexual abuse, bullying, and social and emotional management.

CityLink of Peoria was awarded \$11 Million in grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as part of the Governor J. B. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Capital Program, which helps to provide capital grants to downstate public transit agencies. The awarded amount was divided into two sections. \$8 million designated for the current rebuild and renovation of its bus maintenance and operations facility. The other section of the grant was \$3 million to use for exterior upgrades for the Downtown Peoria Transit Center Facility. The funding will help assist them in continuing to move forward with maintenance and operations facilities projects that are underway. This funding is crucial for City Link in allowing the transit agency to grow and to provide for the Greater Peoria Area.

City of Peoria recently hired Kimberly Richardson as the Assistant City Manager. In her new role, she will oversee the Economic Development Council, Emergency Communications Center & the Information Systems staff.

Cullinan Properties LTD. Two staff members at Cullinan Properties LTD. were promoted within the leadership team. Stephanie Webster was promoted to Vice President – Director of Development. Steven C. Gattton was promoted to Vice President – Director of Asset Management.

First Mid Bank Wealth Management is excited to welcome Kenneth Baker J. D., MBA as Vice President, Senior Trust Administrator Officer who will serve Peoria & surrounding communities. Baker was previously a Vice President and private client advisor within the wealth management industry. Kenneth was the recipient of Peoria's InterBusiness Issue's "40 Leaders under Forty" award in recognition for his dedicated service to his community.

Hanson Professional Services Tom DeJarld, P.E., S.E., a senior structural engineer at Hanson Professional Services inc.'s Peoria office, recently celebrated 35 years of service with the firm. De-Jarld joined the company in 1987 and provides project management and structural engineering services.

Heartland Health Services welcomes Brogan Bahler, M.D. to the team. His professional memberships include the ACOG, AAFP, ABMF and the AMA. Bahler specializes in obstetrics, womens' health and family medicine.

Illinois Red Cross is pleased to welcome Brian Williamsen to the organization. He will serve as the new communications manager and will be focusing on media relations for the Red Cross in central and southern Illinois including Red Cross chapters in the Quad Cities and West Central Illinois (Davenport/Rock Island/Moline and Quincy/Hannibal-Keokuk), Central Illinois (Peoria/Bloomington) and South Central Illinois (Springfield/Decatur/Champaign).

Illinois Central College Peoria Cradle to Career Initiative (CCI) received \$500,000 in secured funds from Illinois 17th District Congresswoman Cheri Bustos' direct request as part of the \$1.5 trillion federal spending bill passed by Congress last week. ICC has been named an Institutional Partner Office in the recently created Illinois Tutoring Initiative aimed at learning renewal following Covid-19 disruptions in local school districts over the past two years. The \$25 million program, launched by Illinois State University in partnerships with the Governor's Office, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board, will provide tutoring for approximately 8,500 Illinois students during the two-year program. The Tutoring Initiative is designed around strategic partnerships with local school districts that were disproportionately impacted by COVID with high percentages of low-income students and families, and that have low funding adequacy.

Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at **Bradley University** is pleased to announce Chris Youngmark as the new SBDC Assistant Director. Chris will advise individuals who want to start a business or expand existing businesses. He will focus on business formation and registration guidance, business plan development, and eCommerce and social media assessment. Chris will also support outreach to rural communities by providing assistance and training to rural individuals and businesses.

OSF HealthCare Robert Sehring, Chief Executive officer, OSF HealthCare recently was elected treasurer of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA)202 Board of Trustees. Sehring joined OSF in 2002 and has served in several leadership roles across the OSF Ministry before being named CEO in October 2017.

Peoria Park District Robert Johnson Sr. was recently elected to the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Board of Trustees. Johnson is currently the President of Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria Board of Trustees. As an IAPD Trustee, Johnson will assist the association with its mission of advancing and improving Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies in their ability to preserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life for all people in Illinois. In March, RiverPlex's KidzKorner child care area reopened as Playhouse at the Plex. The **Peoria Playhouse** has redesigned the space with areas for creative and imaginative play, using many of the same toys that children love playing with in the museum. Staff for PlayHouse at the Plex will be PlayHouse staff, experts in play facilitation and helping children grow their curiosity and creativity.

Peoria Riverfront Museum February was the anniversary of longtime volunteer Mary Jean Bowman's birthday. The Peoria Riverfront Museum announced the first endowment fund created to support elementary school students. This fund will support Peoria Public School Lincoln K-8 School's participation in the museum's Every Student Program Initiative. Bowman's son and his wife along with the Mary Jean Bowman estate committed \$70,000 to

BUSINESS BRIEFS

the Riverfront Museum for the creation of an educational endowment fund honoring his late mother. Mary Jean Bowman was a museum supporter and volunteer who passed away in 2021 at the age of 92 and she took a special interest in Lincoln School.

Peoria Symphony Orchestra (PSO) announces the official retirement of Executive Director, Susan Hoffman effective April 30, 2022. As Executive Director, Hoffman led the PSO to achieve a substantial increase in revenue, profitability, sustainability, and subscribing patrons. PSO is proud to announce that they have partnered with the Madison Theater as a Charter organization that will represent the spectrum of performing arts and host a minimum of six events per year at the **Madison Theater**. Through this partnership, the PSO will be able to have an expansion of their current revenues, the **Peoria Civic Center** and Grace Presbyterian Church.

Phoenix Community Development Services hosted their ribbon cutting and Dedication for Madison Apartments II and the new Dream Mural in February.

The Rotary Club of Peoria is now accepting applications for its 2022 Community Service Grants. Grants from the Rotary Club of Community Service are given for direct services to programs that enhance the quality of life in the Peoria area and/or improve the local health, human service & educational services in the community. Grant amounts range from \$200-\$2,000.

Simantel, a Peoria-based advertising and marketing firm, is celebrating 40 years of business. Throughout their time, they provided local, national and international companies with strategic consult and go-to market support they need to give life to their businesses. Jim Simantel founded the company in 1980 but did not incorporate it until 1982. With their strong client base made up of heavy equipment manufacturers, including **Caterpillar**, the agency offers expertise in industries such as agriculture, construction, energy, mining and logistics. They are also celebrating the promotion of two long-time employees to the executive director team. Jillian Light has been named Chief Operations Officer and Chrissie Niedens is now Chief Financial Officer. These promotions are reflective of the growth Simantel has achieved and will facilitate the agency's ability to adapt to the ever-changing business landscape.

Solvera Health Care Inc. of Peoria The **Better Business Bureau** would like to congratulate Solvera Health Care Inc. of Peoria, on earning BBB Accreditation this month! BBB Accredited Businesses must meet and maintain high standards of trust. BBB Accreditation gives customers the confidence they are working with ethical and vetted companies.

UnityPoint Health (UPH) welcomes Daniel Joiner as the Chief Diversity Officer. This is a new role at UnityPoint Health. Joiner will continue to elevate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts across the entire organization and build upon the excellent foundation of work he led as a member of UnityPoint Health's systemwide and regional DEI councils. UPH is pleased to announce Dr. Debra Adornetto-Garcia, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, AOCN has been named Chief Nursing Officer of UnityPoint Health – Central Illinois. Dr. Adornetto-Garcia comes to UnityPoint Health from Reno, Nevada and previously served as CNO for Acute Services at Renown Health Systems, Christus Health Spohn Shoreline Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Banner Gateway Medical Center in Gilbert, Arizona. Adornetto-Garcia brings with her over 30 years of healthcare leadership experience and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

UnityPoint Health - Central Illinois Foundation (UPHCIF) is excited to announce the launch of the Young Minds Project, a transformative initiative to support a new Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center in Central Illinois. The Peoria County Board approved the sale of Heddington Oaks to UnityPoint Health - Methodist. This facility will be the future home of the Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center. The Young Minds Project will allow UPH to create a centralized hub to serve children in need and set the tone in our region for how we can do better for our kids in crisis. A partnership between Spirit Halloween stores and the Unity Point Health – Central Illinois Foundation is bringing much-needed support to children in local hospitals. For the fourth year in a row, Spirit Halloween stores in Central Illinois helped raise funds for UnityPoint's Child Life Program through the Spirit of Children Campaign. The 2021 campaign raised \$105,529. The Child Life Program is dedicated to advocating on behalf of pediatric patients and their families at Methodist, Proctor and Pekin Hospitals.

UnityPoint Health – UnityPlace (UPHUP) The opioid epidemic continues to be a dangerous health crisis that is impacting the Peoria community. For the second year, Illinois State Police troopers were able to save thousands of lives thanks to a generous donation of Naloxone from UPHUP. They were able to match last year's donation & will supply the Illinois State Police with an additional 4,000 lifesaving doses of Naloxone. UnityPlace Community Educator Sue Tisdale and Master Sargent Matt Haywood with the Illinois State Police met at UnityPlace's Medication-Assisted Treatment facility in February, to get the first of three donations of Naloxone, totaling 8,000 doses over two years. This donation was made possible by UnityPlace's Drug Overdose Prevention Program, which is supported by the Illinois State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine (UICOMP) Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, MACP has been appointed Regional Dean for the UICOMP campus. Dr. Aiyer is the 8th regional dean to lead the Peoria campus since its founding in 1970. Previous roles Dr Aiyer has served in the UICOMP include interim regional dean in April 2019, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Professor of Clinical Medicine & Head of the Department of Health Sciences Education.

Walz Label & Mailing Systems was awarded the National Dealer of the Year from their own supplier, Quadient. This was awarded to them for hardware and software revenue in the last 12 months. This is the first time they have won this award.

WTVP PBS Locally produced *Self Made with Dee Brown* CEO joined the WTVP Business Block line in March. Hosted by business owner, producer, nonprofit founder, philanthropist and author Dee Brown, the half-hour, weekly interview program featured Central Illinois and nationally renowned business & organization leaders. The news program featured inspirational interviews of individuals who started from ordinary circumstances and went on to achieve extraordinary success in their respective fields. Dee Brown discussed the stories of those who are living the "American Dream."

Business Briefs are an excellent marketing opportunity offered to Chamber Members. To share news in the next issue, information must be submitted via email to editor@peoriachamber.org by June 1st.

Holding Elected Officials Accountable



Peoria City Council Voting Record Score Card



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YOUNG PROFESIONALS OF GREATER PEORIA

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Our Board & Committee Members are planning some great things throughout 2022!

YPPG Events:

Socials— 1st Tuesday of each month 5-7pm

- April 7 // The Fieldhouse
*Trivia Night & School Supply Drive for PPS150
- May 5 // TBD
- June 2 // TBD
*Annual YPPG Membership Drive
- July 7 // TBD

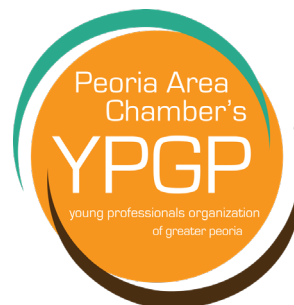
Annual Membership Details

2021-2022 Memberships expire 5/31/22

Renew or Join before 06.01.22:

Annual Membership - \$50. For more info: www.peoriachamber.org

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AMEREN NEWS



amerenillinoisavings.com

Shout It from the Rooftops!

Advanced Rooftop Controls (ARC) is a high-value and cost-effective energy efficiency tool for many commercial energy users. Any energy user with a rooftop unit on their site will benefit from this technology.

What exactly are Advanced Rooftop Controls?

Advanced Rooftop Controls (ARCs) are a digital system that allows remote monitoring, and enables control of fan speed, economizer function, and the thermostat, making it easier to maintain occupant comfort and system efficiency. Advanced Rooftop Controls can save commercial buildings 30% to 60% of their energy consumption!*

Benefits of Advanced Rooftop Controls:

- Lower utility costs
- Lower maintenance costs
- Remote monitoring and access
- Enhanced indoor air quality
- Improved comfort
- Reduced noise

The **Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program** offers a \$200/ton cooling capacity. How do those savings add up?

Just to put some real dollars into perspective (based upon a 10-ton unit):

- Potential Ameren Illinois incentive ~ \$2000
- Cost** of the project ~\$3,900
- Bill savings** ~\$725/annually
- Payback w/incentive** ~2.6 years

Interested to learn more about ARCs and how Ameren Illinois incentives can help cover a portion of your ARC equipment and installation? Contact the **Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program** at 1.866.800.0747 or IllinoisBusinessEE@ameren.com to connect with your local Energy Advisor or Program Ally.

* 1 ASHRAE Journal, March 2014, Improving Operating Efficiency of Packaged Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps. Srinivas Katipamula, Weimin Wang, Mira Vowles. P. 36. Mar.

**All values are approximate, estimated by averaging over many building types and use cases. Based on studies that may not reflect impacts observed at a specific site. Some content taken from resource-innovations.com



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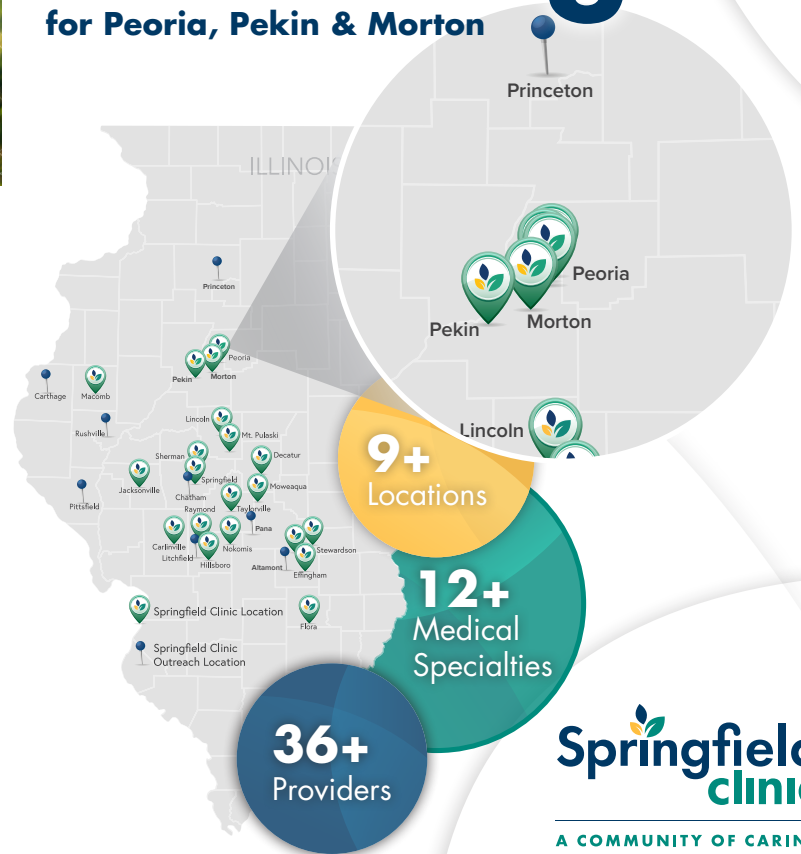
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