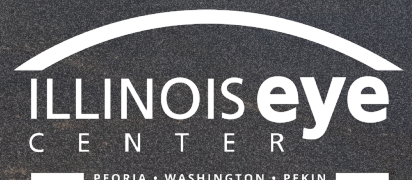


SUMMER '22

A quarterly publication of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

# THE CHAMBER REPORT





# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**B2the9s Custom Designs, LLC**  
Retail Store // [b2the9s.com](http://b2the9s.com)

**Center for Sight & Hearing**  
Health Care // [cshni.org](http://cshni.org)

**Chick-fil-A- Peoria**  
Restaurant // [facebook.com/cfapeoria](https://facebook.com/cfapeoria)

**Creation By Design Smiles**  
Beauty Salon/Spa // [smilepeoria.com](http://smilepeoria.com)

**GarageExperts of Central Illinois**  
Contractor // [garageexperts.com](http://garageexperts.com)

**Good Energy, L.P.**  
Consultant // [goodenergy.com](http://goodenergy.com)

**Grandview Alzheimer's Special Care Center**  
Senior Living // [sinceriseniorliving.com/grand-view](http://sinceriseniorliving.com/grand-view)

**Integrated Project Solutions**  
Consultant // [integratedprojectsolutions.us](http://integratedprojectsolutions.us)

**It's A Vibe Selfie Studio**  
Entertainment // [itsavibepeoria.com](http://itsavibepeoria.com)

**Landmark Recreation Center**  
Recreation // [landmarkrec.com](http://landmarkrec.com)

**Legacy Solar**  
Contractor // [legacysolarpower.com](http://legacysolarpower.com)

**McAlister's Deli**  
Restaurant // [mcalistersdeli.com](http://mcalistersdeli.com)

**Natural Fiber Welding**  
Manufacturing & Production // [naturalfiberwelding.com](http://naturalfiberwelding.com)

**New Millennium Institute**  
HR Services // [jbnewmil.com](http://jbnewmil.com)

**Pierpont Ventures**  
Real Estate Services // [pierpontventures.com](http://pierpontventures.com)

**Primo Designs Inc.**  
Manufacturing & Production // [primodesigns.net](http://primodesigns.net)

**Reinhart Grounds Maintenance, Inc.**  
Landscaping // [reinhartservices.com](http://reinhartservices.com)

**Special Olympics Illinois**  
Non-Profit // [soill.org](http://soill.org)

**State Senator Win Stoller**  
Government // [senatorstoller.com](http://senatorstoller.com)

**Tate & Huston Integrative Wellness Center**  
Health Care // [tateandhustonintegrativewellness.com](http://tateandhustonintegrativewellness.com)

**United Rentals**  
Contractor // [unitedrentals.com](http://unitedrentals.com)

## EVENTS CALENDAR

[f @PeoriaChamber](#) | [t @PeoriaChamber](#) | [i @PeoriaAreaChamber](#) | [in @PeoriaAreaChamber](#)

### Business Before Hours

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

- July 26 // INB
- August 23 // University of Illinois College of Medicine
- Sept 27 // Salvation Army
- Oct 25 // South Side Mission

### Business After Hours

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

- July 7 // Heyl Royster
- August 11 // First Mid Bank & Trust
- Sept 8 // Widmer Interiors
- Oct 13 // Pere Marquette

### Annual Events

*Sponsorships Available—Contact us!*

- Chamber Picture Day // August 25 // Register Now!
- Thanksgiving Luncheon // Nov 17 // Info Coming Soon!

### Regional Initiatives

*Watch for Updates & Events*

- Chambers All-In // [peoriachamber.org/chambers-all-in](http://peoriachamber.org/chambers-all-in)
- Greater Peoria 2030 // [peoria.org/thisisgreaterpeoria](http://peoria.org/thisisgreaterpeoria)
- Shop Local 365 // [shoplocal365.co](http://shoplocal365.co)
- The Big Table: Greater Peoria // [bigtablegp.com](http://bigtablegp.com)

# MEMBER FEATURE

## Illinois Eye Center: A Vision for Community Eye Health

At Illinois Eye Center, we believe providing effective ophthalmic care for our community means providing effective care in our community. We've stuck with this philosophy now for over 70 years.

Since our humble origins on Hamilton Boulevard in Peoria, our goal has been, and continues to be, focused on providing ophthalmic specialty care right here in central Illinois. We don't want people to have to travel to Iowa City, Chicago, or St. Louis to get the care they need. We firmly believe people should be able access care they trust in their own community.

As a company owned by a group of six of our practicing ophthalmologists, we have three locations and over 20 specialist providers to ensure our community has access to general and specialty eye care that they can trust.

To serve the eye care needs of the community, Illinois Eye Center currently offers comprehensive subspecialty and surgical services related to cataract, glaucoma, laser vision correction, ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery, as well as retinal, corneal and neuro ophthalmological conditions.

Since those early days, we've expanded our offerings and physical locations to include Peoria, Pekin, and Washington, but we still firmly believe that eye care doesn't stop at our clinic door. We are very active in community health fairs and screening events. We



also have a community vision education outreach program to provide education about eye health to the community. Overall, Illinois Eye Center provides eye screenings and eye health education to more than 2,000 individuals annually, all at no cost to the community.

To further support eye health in our community, we are also an active supporter of the UnityPoint Health Wellmobile, SeniorNet, Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Lions Club, Eversight, and many other community organizations and events.

Give us a call (309-243-2400) or visit our website [illinoiseyecenter.com](http://illinoiseyecenter.com) to learn how we can help support your eye health!



## PEORIA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**RENEW OR JOIN TODAY**  
[WWW.PEORIACHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.PEORIACHAMBER.ORG)



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@PEORIACHAMBER

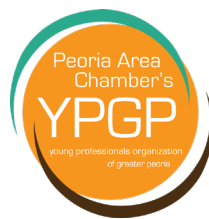


@PEORIAAREACHAMBER



@PEORIACHAMBER

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF GREATER PEORIA



### '22-'23 Memberships

**Renew or Join Today!**

**Annual Dues: \$50**

More info: [www.peoriachamber.org/about-yppg](http://www.peoriachamber.org/about-yppg)

### EVENTS:

#### \* Monthly Socials

JULY 7 | AUG 4 | SEPT 1

#### \* Signature Event

OCT 28



f @YPGPeo   t @YPGreaterPeoria   i @ypgreaterpeoria   in @ypgp

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

## HEY FOLKS!

There are 1,299 municipalities in the State of Illinois, 500 of which are classified as "Cities". Each of those places have redeeming qualities and much to offer across this great state, but only one of them can be considered the best.

In 2022, U.S. News and World Report, the most well-recognized journal of its kind, known worldwide for its rankings of cities, states and universities, selected Peoria as the top place to live in the entire state. While for many of us, this was no surprise, some were more skeptical of the ranking. I think it's vitally important to recognize the context; being ranked number 1 in anything is worth celebrating. However, being number 1 in a class of nearly 1,300 other options is extremely significant. We should all shout this from the rooftops!

Peoria is not only the best place to live in Illinois, but also rated as Top 50 places to live in the entire nation. There are nearly 20,000 municipalities in this vast nation. To be rated in the top 50 is no small feat. The ranking touts all the great things that we know and love about this place: our high quality of life, affordability, parks, schools, workforce opportunities and dynamic economy, just to name a few. Peoria has found its way on many of these national lists before, often in unflattering ways. We are finally getting the credit we deserve for all the good things happening here; good things for which each one of you can take a

bit of credit. Peoria thrives because of the dedication of thousands upon thousands of individuals. I am proud to be in that number with you.

Peoria also thrives because of all the other cities, towns and villages that surround the city. I believe that it is not only the people, places, and things within the city limits of Peoria, but the efforts of the entire region that contributed to the recent rankings and have always made this area so special.

As you enjoy this amazing summer in Central Illinois, I encourage you to brag just a little bit. When someone asks you where you live, feel free to respond with, "I live in the best part of Illinois, and one of the best places in the entire country."

I'll keep a copy of the article on my desk, just in case anyone needs proof.

Thank you in advance for taking my encouragement and all that you do to make that statement true.

We are Peoria Proud. I am Peoria Proud.



Joshua Gunn  
President & CEO



## AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

MARY  
BENAVIDEZ

THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS!  
WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

**Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in as the first Black female Supreme Court justice.**

## **Equifax, Experian, & TransUnion Support U.S. Consumers with Changes to Medical Collection Debt Reporting**

The three nationwide credit reporting agencies (NCRAs): Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, announced significant changes to medical collection debt reporting to support consumers faced with unexpected medical bills. These joint measures will remove nearly 70% of medical collection debt tradelines from consumer credit reports, a step taken after months of industry research.

Effective July 1, 2022, paid medical collection debt will no longer be included on consumer credit reports.

**NEWS**

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Public Acts: [ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts](http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts)**

102-0069	SB 00061	INS-IMPROPER CLAIMS PRACTICE
102-0160	SB 02664	NOTARY-ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS
102-0267	HB 00577	SCH CD-PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE
102-0373	SB 02014	HIGHER ED-MENTAL HEALTH-STUID
102-0416	HB 01778	STUDENT ID-SUICIDE PREV INFO
102-0622	SB 00662	HIGHER ED-SOCIAL WORKER-GRANT
102-0778	HB 04595	INS-DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM
102-0901	HB 04703	INSURANCE-BILLING
102-0935	HB 04452	COUNTIES-WIND ENERGY FACILITY
102-0941	HB 04639	SOS-MANUFACTURED HOME DEALERS
102-0946	HB 04666	FUNERAL DIRECTOR-VARIOUS
102-0962	HB 04999	EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
102-1062	HB 04326	SCHOOL FACILITY OCCUP REVENUE

### **SB 3616, Crown Act/Hair was signed into Law**

This bill provides that the amendatory Act may be referred to as the CROWN (Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) Act. Provides that "race" includes traits associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture & protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. Provides that, with respect to places of public accommodation, the Department of Human Rights has jurisdiction over the denial or refusal of the full and equal enjoyment of (rather than the denial of access to) facilities, goods, or services.

### **Illinois Electric Vehicle Rebate Program | IL Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Director John J. Kim announced the**

opening of IL Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program. Illinois residents that purchase an all-electric passenger vehicle on or after July 1, 2022, are eligible to apply for a rebate under Illinois' EV Rebate Program. As of July 1, 2022, the EV Rebate Fund has a balance of \$17,909,043.51. To learn more or apply: [www2.illinois.gov/epa](http://www2.illinois.gov/epa). The following rebate amounts have been set forth in statute: 7/1/22: \$4,000 Rebate, 7/1/26: \$2,000 Rebate, 7/1/28: \$1,500 rebate & \$1,500 Rebate for electric motorcycles

**Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Rebate |** IEPA will offer rebates to public and private entities for the installation and maintenance of Level 2 and direct current fast charging (DCFC) stations. Rebate awards may cover up to 80% of the eligible project costs. Additional rebates are available for EV charging stations deployed in underserved and environmental justice communities.

## **COMMITTEES, GRANTS & MORE**

**DCEO Illinois Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) |** The OMEE is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OMEE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth. This investment spurs local economic development in underserved areas resulting in a revitalized and thriving Illinois economy. Visit [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/OMEE](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/OMEE) to learn more.

**DCEO Community Development Block Grants – Economic Development |** Grants are awarded on an as-needed basis throughout the year to units of general local government meeting eligibility and program component requirements until all funds allocated to this program have been distributed. All awards in this category are predicated upon project feasibility and a demonstrated need for funds. This will include a review of all sources and uses of funds, an analysis of the recipient's ability to comply with the terms of the program, and a determination that CDBG participation is appropriate.

**EPA Opportunity for School Districts to Adopt Electric School Buses |** EPA is offering \$500M through the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates for zero-emission and low-emission school bus rebates. Apply by Aug.19: visit [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

**US Department of Transportation (DOT) Announced Funding for Roadway Safety |** The application process is now open for communities of all sizes to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 funding via Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) grants. The primary goal is to improve roadway safety by supporting communities in developing comprehensive safety action plans based on a Safety System Approach and implementing projects and strategies that significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance and micromobility users, commercial vehicle operators and motorists. More info or apply by September 15: [transportation.gov/grants/SS4A](http://transportation.gov/grants/SS4A)

**Bureau of Small Business Enterprises (BSBE) |** Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) BSBE, under the purview of the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, supports a diverse workforce & business community by ensuring equity and inclusion within projects and programs. The BSBE champions an environment where diverse individuals contribute to the shared success of our state and our neighborhoods by focusing on three key pillars: diverse vendors, thriving businesses, & an empowered workforce. More info: [idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/bureaus/sbe](http://idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/bureaus/sbe)

## **RESOURCES**

- **State of Illinois:** [www2.illinois.gov](http://www2.illinois.gov)
  - Business Assistance: ([/businesshelp](http://businesshelp))
  - Business Services: ([/business](http://business))
  - IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity: ([/dceo](http://dceo))
  - IL Office of Minority Economic Empowerment: ([/OMEE](http://OMEE))
  - Grant Opportunities: ([/aboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities](http://aboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities))
- **IL Dept. of Employment Security (IDES) –** [ides.illinois.gov](http://ides.illinois.gov)
  - Labor Laws: ([/resources/labor-laws](http://resources/labor-laws))
- **IL Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) –** [idot.illinois.gov](http://idot.illinois.gov)
- **IL Employer-Based Training:** [illinoisworknet.com/training](http://illinoisworknet.com/training)
- **IL Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) –** [www2.illinois.gov/epa](http://www2.illinois.gov/epa)
- **IL General Assembly –** [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov)
- **US Department of Transportation (DOT) –** [transportation.gov](http://transportation.gov)
- **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) –** [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)
  - Small Businesses: ([/resources-small-businesses](http://resources-small-businesses))

## **NEWS SOURCES**

CNBC Select: [CNBC.com/Select](http://CNBC.com/Select) | National Public Radio: [NPR.org](http://NPR.org) | PR Newswire: [PRnewswire.com](http://PRnewswire.com) | US Chamber of Commerce: [USchamber.com](http://USchamber.com)



# AMEREN NEWS

## AMEREN ILLINOIS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES MADE IN ILLINOIS BONUS

The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program is excited to announce the Made in Illinois Bonus for its business customers! The Bonus is intended to help promote Illinois businesses and their products that are manufactured or assembled right here in the Land of Lincoln. This Bonus also provides extra savings and increased incentive amounts for your business, shortening your project payback period even further.

The Made in Illinois Bonus is available for Ameren Illinois business customers who purchase and install Illinois manufactured products in their facilities. The Bonus will consist of an additional 5% added to the Early Completion Bonus for projects completed Jan. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2022. The Early Completion Bonus + Made in Illinois Bonus structure is as follows:

*Projects completed by Sept. 30, 2022—10%*

**ELIGIBILITY:** Equipment must be at least 50% manufactured and/or assembled in Illinois (exclusive of packaging and installation). Product installation is not considered assembled. The project must be completed between Jan. 1, 2022 & Sept. 30, 2022.

**HOW TO APPLY:** A section has been added to all energy efficiency project applications for the Made

in Illinois Bonus and includes the following:

- A checkbox to indicate if the equipment listed on the application meets the criteria.
- A line to enter equipment manufacturer and model.
- Instructions to submit documentation of eligible equipment with the application. (*Documentation of eligibility must be either a listing of the equipment on the BuildingClean.org website showing that it was made in Illinois or an affidavit from the manufacturer attesting that the equipment meets the criteria.*)

To learn more about this exciting new Bonus, as well as other Program incentives, visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/bonus](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/bonus) or call 1.866.800.0747.

P.S. Save the date for the Ameren Illinois Business Symposium happening in person in 2022! This year's Symposium will be held Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Stay tuned for registration details and event information. We hope to see you there!

\*This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offers or bonuses. Only non-residential customer projects are eligible for this Bonus. This Bonus does not apply to the Online Store, Instant Incentives, Midstream HVAC/HPWH Offerings, Small Business Direct Install projects, Staffing Grant, Strategic Energy Management (SEM), Metering & Monitoring, Feasibility Study or Building Energy Assessment (BEA). Incentives are capped at \$10,000 per project. Project and paperwork must adhere to all Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program guidelines and requirements. This Bonus is based on Program funding and may be suspended at any time. Projects must be completed on or after Jan. 1, 2022. Projects that had financial commitment or were pre-approved prior to Dec. 1, 2021 are not eligible for the incentive bonus.

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**MobileMaxx.com**

**COMMERCIAL UNITS**  
8'x40' 8'x20'  
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Facility



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## Made in Illinois Bonus Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Programs



We're excited to announce that you can receive additional bonus money for your energy efficiency projects through the **Made in Illinois Bonus!**

If you're an Ameren Illinois business customer who purchases and installs Illinois-manufactured products in your facility while completing an energy efficiency project, you'll receive the **Made in Illinois Bonus!**

Eligibility, how to apply, rules and additional criteria found at [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Bonus](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Bonus).



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
PROGRAM**

SCAN HERE





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Progress requires more than experience. You need a trusted adviser on your team, one who looks out for you and anticipates your needs.

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# RIBBON-CUTTINGS

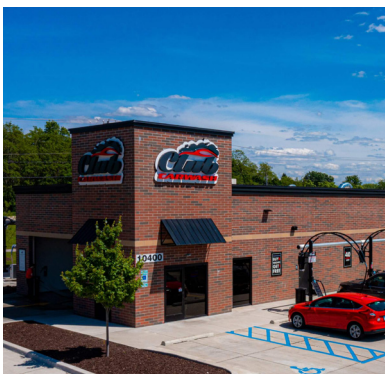


## B2THE9S CUSTOM DESIGNS

Congratulations to BreAija Bryant on the Grand Opening of her unique business at Northwoods Mall, B2the9s Custom Designs! This multi-faceted business reflects the many talents of BreAija! Please stop in for one-of-a-kind personalized gifts, apparel, crafting and more! Welcome to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce & we wish you much success!

## BATTERIES PLUS+

Congratulations to Batteries Plus+ for their new store owners. If you are in search of batteries, chargers, lighting, gear/equipment, repairs and services, smart home options or other battery replacements, check them out. Thank you for your continued membership!



## CLUB CAR WASH

Congratulations to Club Car Wash for the opening of their newest location: 1217 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL. Be sure to stop by to keep your ride fresh & clean!

## DETAIL PEORIA

Celebrating the new ownership and beautiful remodeling of Detail Peoria! Congratulations, Sue and Scott!



## GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY

Great Harvest Bread Company celebrates the Grand Opening of their newest location inside the OSF Healthcare Ministry Headquarters at 124 SW Adams. Congratulations to Craig Janssen and his awesome team!

## HOUNDS TOWN PEORIA

Celebrating the Grand Opening & new PACC membership of Hounds Town Peoria! Mayor Ali and Joshua Gunn joined us in congratulating Jamie Wieland, Mayor Mike and the amazing Hounds Town team!







## ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER

Congratulations on the recent Illinois American Water (IAW) groundbreaking with Sol Systems on their second solar project: the Peoria Solar Field. The 2.3-megawatt solar project includes bifacial panels and single-axis trackers that will generate the equivalent electricity each year of approximately 350+ homes.

## OAK STREET HEALTH

Oak Street Health celebrated the Grand Opening of their new location on West Lake Avenue in Peoria. Oak Street Health specializes in treating adults with Medicare and senior patients. Congratulations and welcome to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce!



## PEORIA ART GUILD

The Peoria Art Guild celebrated their 2022 Sculpture Walk Peoria Opening Day reception at the front entrance of the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The outdoor public art exhibit will feature 8 new sculptures installed along both sides of Washington Street from the Peoria Riverfront Museum to the Bob Michel Bridge.

## PEORIA CHARTER TRAVEL

Peoria Charter Travel celebrated their new location inside The Noshery at Keller Station. Congratulations, Cindy and Bill! Thank you for your membership!



## PEORIA PARK DISTRICT

Peoria Park District celebrated the Grand Opening of new Pickleball Courts at Glen Oak Park. A short ceremony concluded with a ribbon cutting followed by a Pickleball Clinic led by Mike Mitchell, Peoria Area USAPA Pickleball Ambassador.

## THE UNDERGROUND TRAINING CENTER

The Underground Training Center at Landmark recently celebrated their Grand Opening and new Chamber membership! They have only just begun—watch to see what's in store for this awesome training facility! Congratulations to Director Ishmael Hicks and his amazing family and team!



## VIMEDICUS

Celebrating the launch of ViMedicus, a behavioral health program, which addresses some of the many gaps in healthcare and enables employees and dependents to make lifestyle changes, to overcome mental health issues and stressors. Congratulations, Tom and Matt! Welcome to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce!

REQUEST A RIBBON-CUTTING AT [PEORIACHAMBER.ORG](https://www.peoriachamber.org) UNDER THE MEMBER CENTER MENU



# BUSINESS BRIEFS

• **Advanced Medical Transport (AMT)** was selected by How-2Media to be featured on "World's Greatest!...", a 30-minute show dedicated to highlighting the world's greatest companies, products, places & people. The segment is available at [www.worldsgreatesttelevision.com](http://www.worldsgreatesttelevision.com).

• **ArtsPartners of Central Illinois (APCI)** is pleased to announce the winning works and artists selected for the 2022 Sky Art Peoria program. Sky Art Peoria is an initiative of APCI & is made possible in partnership with **Adams Outdoor Advertising**. The program displays and promotes art from talented, local artists who submit their artwork for review. This year's winners include Aareon Boyd, *Eternal AB Forever Button Up*; Jessica Peterson, *A Gentle Breeze*; André Petty, *Ordinary Love*; Jason Watts, *The River* and new this year, a student division (young local artists under the age of 18): Tanishqa Pande, *Peacock King*. Sky Art Peoria is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Program sponsors include: The Fine Arts Society of Peoria, **Big Picture Peoria**, **Discover Peoria**, and **O'Shea Builders**. Learn more about this year's winning artists at [www.artspartners.net/SkyArtPeoria](http://www.artspartners.net/SkyArtPeoria).

• **Busey Bank** unveiled the **Busey Bank Bridge**, a new community center at 2120 SW Adams St., providing a new outreach to individuals and businesses. According to the Busey, [this center] "expands access to economic opportunity by connecting with the community through outreach, tools & resources that provide comprehensive financial education to individuals, families and business owners." For more information, go to [busey.com/thebridge](http://busey.com/thebridge).

• **Caterpillar, Inc.** announced that they will move their corporate headquarters from Deerfield, IL to Irving, TX. The **City of Peoria** released the following statement: "Caterpillar continues to have a significant presence in Peoria as an employer and as a civic and philanthropic leader. We wish them well with this move and will continue to support their employees and team members here in Peoria."

• **CEFCU** announced that Alycia Hightower has assumed the role of Chief People Officer. Hightower has been an employee of CEFCU for 29 years & is active in the community with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., & is a board member with the **Tri-County Urban League** in Peoria. Tammie Fletcher, an employee of CEFCU for 33 years, has assumed the role of Assistant Vice President of People Operations. Assistant Vice President of Business Services – Southern Illinois Region role has been assumed by Jeff Ambrose. Jessica Churchill has been promoted to Iles Member Center Manager in Springfield, IL.

• **Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA)** announced they have served more than 100 human trafficking survivors since the addition of the Human Trafficking Services Department in 2018. Of those served, 86% call downstate Illinois home with 73% coming from the Peoria, Tazewell, & Woodford County area.

• The Mayor's Youth Program is an 8-week program ran by the **City of Peoria** - Department of Public Works. Twenty-three **Peoria Public Schools** high school student workers will improve the city's green infrastructure via jobs such as

planting, mulching, along with litter & debris removal. The program is designed to support economically disadvantaged youth in reaching their full potential in their community, school, & work.

• **CMFS Group Inc.** has changed their name to **Solid Rock Retirement Strategies**. Their existing phone number & address will remain the same.

• **Cullinan Properties** announced that Josh Williams joined the company as Senior Vice President, Director of Investments, based in Houston, TX.

• **Community Foundation of Central IL (CFCI)** shared these upcoming Grant Opportunities offered through this Fall, all due September 7: Community Needs Grants, Women's Fund Success Grants, & The Local Jobs Fund Grant. Applications are available beginning July 1.

• **David Vaughan Investments, LLC (DVI)** appointed Stephanie Ricketts, CFP as a new Officer of the company at the first quarter meeting. Stephanie is an industry veteran with over 25 years of experience in the finance industry. She joined DVI in 2007 & quickly established herself as a hard-working and knowledgeable Senior Relationship Manager. As Director of Client Services, she has also shown strong leadership skills by overseeing associates in Peoria & Winter Park offices.

• **Heyl Royster** acquired **H & H Title Services, Inc.**, adding a fourth location to their real estate & title services practice in central IL. Both agencies will now operate under **Heyl Royster Real Estate & Title Services**. Their newest office located at 3332 W. Willow Knolls Dr., Suite B, Peoria.

• For the third year in a row, **Illinois American Water (IAW)** has received the J.D. Power award for ranking highest in customer satisfaction among large water utilities in the Midwest according to the J.D. Power 2022 U.S. Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study. IAW also ranked #1 in 2021, 2020 & in 2016.

• **Illinois Central College (ICC)** will offer "Smart Start" and "ReStart" college success programs this summer to support individuals in their transition to or transition back into college. "Smart Start" is a 3-week program designed to help high school seniors in their transition from high school to college. "ReStart" is a free 4-week program designed to help those who have been out of high school for 3+ years & have previously attended college.

• ICC signed a new transfer admission guarantee agreement with Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Students can go on to complete their SIUC bachelor's degrees online & at a lower cost in six academic programs: accounting, business administration, criminology and criminal justice, health care management, psychology, and radiologic sciences.

• For the 3rd consecutive year, ICC will maintain a flat In- & Out-of-district, Out-of-state & International student tuition rates at \$155 per credit hour (the lowest tuition rate in the greater Peoria region) for Fall '22, Spring and Summer '23 semesters.

• The **Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** at **Bradley University** is currently looking for established,

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

for-profit companies interested in participating in the Senior Consulting Project (SCP) Program during the Fall 2022 Semester (Aug.-Dec.). This program is one of the oldest business assistance programs at Bradley: 50-years running in 2022 and is provided to the client at no cost. For more information & full consideration apply by Aug. 5.

- The **Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria** celebrated the 11th Anniversary of the "New" PIA Terminal Opening at the **General Wayne A. Downing - Peoria International Airport** at the **Peoria Riverfront Museum** Giant Screen Theatre.

- The **Peoria Area Association of Realtors (PAAR)** has been selected as one of three local realtor associations nationwide to participate in the National Association of Realtors' (NAR) Transforming Neighborhoods (TN) Program. The PAAR, working with **City of Peoria** Mayor Rita Ali, and in consultation with Chris Setti of the **Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC)**, submitted a project to NAR which will focus on the potential use of vacant land left after the demolition of Harrison and McKinley Schools in Peoria. This engagement is meant to set a foundation for discussion and recommendations to strengthen the work on this issue locally.

- Country music superstar, Reba McEntire became the highest grossing country show to play the **Peoria Civic Center** after a sold-out arena show. She broke the previous record set by Blake Shelton in February 2019. McEntire has performed nine shows in the venue.

- **Peoria Magazine**, a **WTVP** publication, is accepting 2022 "40 Leaders under Forty" nominations. Forty Leaders Under Forty is an annual celebration of emerging leaders in Greater Peoria. Through nominations submitted by the community, the region's rising young stars are honored each year at a prestigious community reception. Nominations can be submitted online at [www.peoriamagazines.com/40-leaders](http://www.peoriamagazines.com/40-leaders) or download the form & mail by Aug. 31st.

- Recently, **Peoria Park District's (PPD)** Executive Director, Emily Cahill, was on *Good Morning America*. Our area's lifeguard shortage is not unique. Despite our shortage, lifeguards are essential to the District's year-round aquatic activities. PPD is doing great work to help attract more lifeguards.

- PPD's Peoria Zoo has partnered with KultureCity to make programs more sensory inclusive environment. Sensory bags, equipped with noise canceling headphones & other tools are available. Prior to attending an event, families can download the free KultureCity App that provides more details about where sensory features are available and how they can access them.

- PPD staff and trustees celebrated Donovan Park's accreditation as a Level 1 Arboretum by hosting a public tree planting. Donovan Park, located in the heart of Peoria, is adjacent to the Peoria Park District Rock Island Greenway and filled with open green space that welcomes walkers, runners, and cross-country skiers. It's also home to Northmoor Observatory, **Cyd's in the Park** and the Donovan Sculpture Garden. Staff & Richwoods High School students planted a bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) at the close of the event. This species is native to the historical habitat that

the property of Donovan Park once was.

- Art and science collide to create an electrifying, even other-worldly 3D laser experience with the debut of a new custom laser show system on the return of "Laser Light Nights" to **Peoria Riverfront Museum's (PRM)** Dome Planetarium. Powered by "world-leading" technology, the ultra-bright new laser shows feature vivid colors, dazzling special effects, drifting haze, and a pumped-up playlist of 20+ new performances, from Beyoncé to The Beatles & special holiday shows.

- The complete nine-film "Star Wars" "Skywalker Saga" series plays first in Peoria this summer. PRM's Giant Screen Theater. Illinois largest movie screen is the first venue to host the entire trilogy of trilogies. The series is sponsored by the Film Society of the Giant Screen Theater. To purchase tickets or for more information call 309.686.7000 or visit [RiverfrontMuseum.org](http://RiverfrontMuseum.org).

- The **Peoria Symphony Orchestra (PSO)** announced the hiring of the new Executive Director, Anthony Marotta. Marotta has actively been involved with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra located in Greenville, S.C. as a principal clarinet since 1998 & as the Director of Operations and Artistic Administration from 2004-2011.

- The PSO will be performing pieces from the Star Wars Saga Suite and Suite from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. The 2022 Young Artist Competition winner, Arjun Siderys (piano) will be performing.

- The **Peoria Symphony Guild (Guild)** and the **Junior League of Peoria (JLP)** hosted the "Our Orchestra - Forever Growing" Tree Planting at Donovan Park in honor of PSO's 125th season. The Guild planned and orchestrated the event, and financially, it was underwritten by the JLP. Special thanks to **Cyd's in the Park** for providing light refreshments after the tree planting, Jeff Hoerr for donating the Sugar Maple tree, JD Russell, Supervisor of Parks for the **Peoria Park District**, for arranging for the tree to be planted in Donovan Park, and to Bob Streitmatter, **Luthy Botanical Garden** Manager, and **Joan's Trophy** for the tree signage.

- The Guild hosted the 68th Annual Student Concert at the **Peoria Civic Center** Theater with over 3200 students joining the Guild, split between two concerts, this is a record number of students attending the concerts that have been a tradition since 1954. This year's concert was presented with the grant support from the **Howard & Howard** Community Reinvestment Fund.

- Just five years shy of the 100th anniversary, the **Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette** has a new look that pays tribute to its opulent past while embracing the future.

- The **Turner Center for Entrepreneurship** at **Bradley University** is offering a free series of training sessions on financial accounting concepts and their applications in small business. The Accounting series consists of multiple segments: Business Accounting 101: Basic Concepts, Business Accounting 201: Concepts into Action, Application of Concepts using QuickBooks-Basics, Application of Concepts using QuickBooks-Advanced. For more information & registration: [www.bradley.edu/academic/colleges/fcba/centers/turner/](http://www.bradley.edu/academic/colleges/fcba/centers/turner/).



# BUSINESS BRIEFS (CONT'D)

• Becker's Hospital Review included **UnityPoint Health (UPH)** on their 2022 list of "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare." The list highlights hospitals, health systems and healthcare companies that promote diversity within the workforce, employee engagement and professional growth. UPH is one of only a handful of health systems in Illinois and Wisconsin to be included. For individuals interested in joining their team, search the career page at [unitypoint.org/joinourteam](http://unitypoint.org/joinourteam).

• The Living to Serve Foundation is a long-time supporter of the **UnityPoint Health – Central Illinois (UP-HCI)** Foundation's no-cost mammogram program, which serves local women who are uninsured or underinsured. Living to Serve Foundation has made their biggest donation yet: \$40,000, or ~175 life-saving mammograms for patients. For more information about breast cancer services visit [www.unitypoint.org/peoria/breast-cancer-care](http://www.unitypoint.org/peoria/breast-cancer-care).

• **University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria (UICOMP)** is accepting nominations for their annual Community Health Awards. The nomination deadline is July 20. Details and nominations criteria can be viewed at: [www.peoria.medicine.uic.edu/nominations-open-for-community-health-awards-2022/](http://www.peoria.medicine.uic.edu/nominations-open-for-community-health-awards-2022/).

• UICOMP received a 2021 Stemmler Grant Award for its project, "Automated Assessment of Written Chart Notes: Generating Reliable, Timely, and Useful Feedback," led by William Bond, MD, professor of clinical emergency medicine. This project will be a collaborative effort with **Jump Simulation Peoria** and builds upon work supported by a Jump Applied Research through Community Health through Engineering and Simulation (ARCHES) grant. Jump ARCHES is a partnership between Jump Simulation and Education Center at **OSF HealthCare**. Jump ARCHES provides competitive grants to engineers and physicians working together to combat problems in healthcare.

• **Women in Leadership of Central Illinois (WIL)** and the **Central Illinois National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)** are sponsoring the 2022 Pathways to Success Conference at the **Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino** in East Peoria on September 16. The annual conference empowers women to lead and succeed in all aspects of their lives. The theme of '22 is "Redefining your Leadership" and will offer inspirational speakers & networking opportunities for women throughout Central Illinois. For more information or to register: <http://secure.qgiv.com/for/pathwaystosuccess/>.

**Business Briefs** are an excellent marketing opportunity offered to PACC Members at no cost.

To share news in the next issue, contact us via email: [editor@peoriachamber.org](mailto:editor@peoriachamber.org) by the 1st of September.

# Holding Elected Officials Accountable



## Peoria City Council Voting Record Score Card



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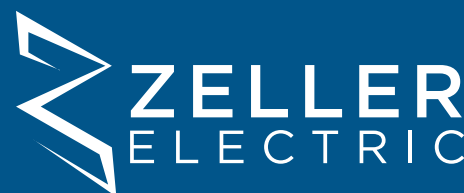
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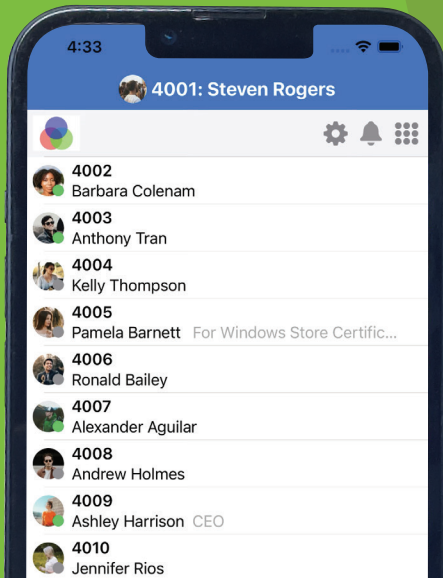
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