

CITY OF

Belleville

NEWSLETTER



BELLEVILLE BEAUTIFUL

Neighbors lead the way in the annual City-Wide clean up.

FULL HEARTS IN BLOOM

The Belleville Heart Garden continues to grow along with Belleville.

FAIRGROUNDS UPDATE

Progress continues and events proceed in 2026.



myBelleville is designed to provide our residents, businesses, and visitors the ability to report concerns to City staff, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, using a mobile app, web portal, phone, or text. myBelleville can be used to **report a concern** by pinpointing a location using GPS, attaching a photo with your comments, and receiving status updates and resolution notifications. City staff monitor concerns during business hours (M-F; 8am – 5pm).

We are here to serve you!



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Concerns are addressed during business hours, NOT on a 24/7 basis.

If you have an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

To report lost or stolen property please contact the Belleville Police Department at 618 234-1212.

All information submitted to the City of Belleville is considered a public record and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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THIS SPRING IN YOUR GREAT. BIG. SMALL TOWN.

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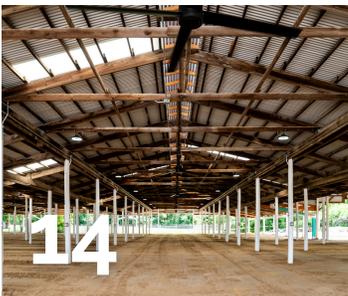
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FAIRGROUNDS

Expect events galore through 2026 at Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Park



FULL HEARTS IN BLOOM

A community garden full of love for community



Scan to View the
COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear friends & Neighbors,

Even in the heart of winter, a new year brings a renewed sense of energy to our City. Belleville continues to shine because of the commitment, kindness, and engagement of our residents. Whether you are supporting local businesses, participating in city programs, or checking in on neighbors, your involvement makes a meaningful difference every day.



This fiscal year has shown strong momentum and collaboration. Our local economy remains vibrant, with 88 commercial occupancy permits issued in 2025 and 10 already issued in 2026, clear signs of continued investment and confidence in Belleville. We also have a hotel market study underway, with Steadfast City gathering public input and evaluating potential sites to share with developers. The study is expected to wrap up in the coming months.

Belleville's commercial districts are thriving. At Belleville Crossing alone, we welcomed new businesses, including Bath & Body Works, Velora Beauty, Wing Stop, Smoke World Vape, Verizon, Mi Nail, and Discount Tire, with Plaza Tire nearing completion and Ross Dress for Less opening soon! These additions bring new jobs, services, and energy to our community.

Through strong partnerships with our state legislators, Belleville has secured more than \$10.5 million in grant funding. These investments support major infrastructure and quality of life projects such as the Freeburg Avenue roundabout, the West Main Road Diet, and Phase II of the West Belleville Bike Trail, projects that improve safety, connectivity, and livability.

Our parks are also benefiting. Laderman Park received \$200,000 for playground improvements, and Dawn Heights Park secured a \$40,000 St. Clair County grant for new playground equipment, helping ensure our public spaces remain welcoming for families throughout Belleville.

Tourism has been another area of focus. The Explore Belleville project launched this past summer, with ExploreBelleville.net serving as the digital home of tourism, featuring an interactive map of over 1,300 businesses, a community calendar, and curated itineraries. Partnerships with the Belleville CEO Program and Downstate Illinois Tourism are helping showcase our city through video content, QR code decals for businesses, and new resident and business welcome materials.

Looking ahead, we are excited about continued development at Belle Clair Fairgrounds Park. Their events bring visitors downtown and help support local businesses. And we are already looking forward to an exciting milestone, our nation's 250th celebration, which will give us a chance to honor our past while promoting our future.

Community involvement remains the foundation of our success. Thank you for your continued support and pride in Belleville. I look forward to another month of progress and connection.

As your Mayor, I am dedicated to serving our City. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Jenny

RECENT HAPPENINGS



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The City of Belleville hosted its 27th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony to honor all veterans who have served this great nation.



GREAT. BIG. GIVE.

The Great. Big. Give. First-annual City of Belleville food and supply drive collected more than 1675 pounds of donations for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry. Thank you to all for your contributions.



TIS THE SEASON

Thank you to all of our City employees who work tirelessly to bring the seasonal cheer each year.



SANTA PARADE

Since 1952, the Santa Parade has kicked off the holiday season in Belleville. Hosted by the Optimist Club of Belleville, this year's parade was a cold one. Yet, the holiday spirit of our City warmed hearts big and small.



EAGLE SCOUT

Congratulations to Elijah Orchard on completing his Eagle Scout rank by building and installing a new sign at Engine House 3 for the Belleville Fire Department.



SANTA'S HOUSE

The annual return of Santa's House to Downtown Belleville is thanks to the Optimist Club of Belleville. The house received a fresh set of lights and welcomed many visitors throughout the season. Thank you to the volunteers who make this happen!



CHRISTKINDLMARKT OPENING

Mayor Jenny, the Christkind, and Gustav officially opened the 2025 Belleville Christkindlmarkt. German Honor Society students entertained by singing German language Christmas songs accompanied by the Belleville East wind ensemble.



GINGERBREAD WALK

This year's Gingerbread Walk included extra fun for participants with a scavenger hunt along the way. The incredible creations from a variety of skill levels and ages were on display through January 6th.



HOLIDAY

Residents and visitors enjoyed a jolly holiday season throughout the City of Belleville. We thank you for supporting Belleville's small businesses and organizations during the season and all year long.



Be a tourist in your own town

EXPLORE



Discover new-to-you places to shop, dine, and explore throughout our Great. Big. Small Town. and can't miss events for everyone. Visit ExploreBelleville.net and play tourist in your own town.





KEEP BELLEVILLE BEAUTIFUL

NEIGHBORS LEAD THE WAY DURING THE ANNUAL CITY-WIDE LITTER PICK-UP
SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH



Keep Belleville Beautiful

Volunteers Needed for the City-Wide Litter Pickup

Sat., April 25, 2026 | 9:00AM-Noon

**For more information or to sign up,
please email sschaefer@belleville.net or call 618.355.8627**



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

FULL HEARTS IN BLOOM

BELLEVILLE HEART GARDEN

The big pink heart swing on South High Street in Downtown Belleville puts a smile on many a face as they drive past through the seasons each year, but its symbol of love and community is backed by a strong vision to grow both as well as invite you to join in on the fun at the Belleville Heart Garden.

Their mission: Belleville Heart Garden is a community demonstration garden and orchard highlighting the beauty of native plants. BHG's mission is to disrupt the disconnection of modern life, encouraging visitors to explore, play and share in the bounty of community.



2019

Belleville Heart Garden began as the Heart Swing and a field of sunflowers.



2020

Food production started with a vegetable garden, made possible by a city provided water source. Stewards created and adopted a master plan for the future of the garden.



2022

Belleville Heart Garden teamed up with LongStory Coffee and held our first Harvest Festival. The garden continued to expand and focus its mission, adding a Free Little Library to its offerings.

2021

Large native plantings were established and the Garden expanded to 720 S. High St. with help from a grant from Illinois American Water to fund the addition of an orchard planted around cascading rain gardens.



2023

Work began on an accessibility plan, in response to community voices and increased visitors.

BHG joined Belleville Cultural Enrichment Organization, gaining 501 (c)(3) status.



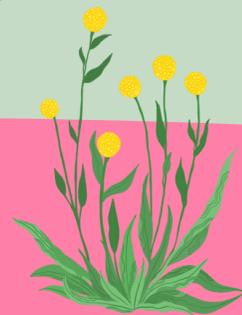
2024

Belleville Heart Garden, working with Seed St Louis, the garden received a major grant from Titos Share the Love Foundation, fully funding accessibility plans and a food bed expansion.



2025

Stewards, volunteers and visitors enjoyed exploring expanded access, new gathering spaces, and more room to grow.



HEART GARDEN

BUILT FOR COMMUNITY BY THE COMMUNITY

Belleville Heart Garden grew out of a desire to build community and find friends. Lori Powell approached City leaders in July of 2018, asking permission to plant a sunflower field on the city owned land at 806 South High. Once City Council approved the plan, Lori collaborated with Paula Haniszewski to dream up an artistic welcome to the plot, and plans for the Heart took shape.

The City of Belleville made indoor work space available over the winter of 2018. Chris Hettenhausen and Tom Haniszewski did the heavy construction, with a plan to transport the Heart to the garden by way of the annual St Patrick's Day Parade.

"The original design was meant to be a kind of frame folks could stand in for photos, the swing was a last minute inspiration, just two days before the parade," said Lori Powell.

Pulling the Heart Swing through Belleville with Lori in the swing was a day to remember. It was also the day that Lori and Alan Elfrink met and became instant friends.

These friends, along with a devoted crew of volunteers, have guided BHG's growth and expansion over the past years. Belleville Heart Garden has hosted countless class trips and garden tours, volunteer groups, three Harvest Festivals, classes, seed swaps, plant shares and more. It is a hub for community sharing. The Heart Swing has become an iconic symbol of Belleville's huge heart and an open invitation to come and play.





HEART GARDEN

GROW SMARTER. CHOOSE NATIVES.

When the orchard was installed, Seed St. Louis was very helpful selecting a variety of fruit bearing trees that do well in our area. Also, Heartlands Conservancy curated a selection of native plants for the rain gardens that bloom in succession throughout the growing season.

CAN ANYONE PICK THEIR OWN? WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY GROW?

All of the food we grow is free to harvest. Nothing makes us happier than seeing visitors walking and snacking as they go. It is a great spot to stop and grab salad or stir fry fixings, some fresh herbs or berries. The first crops ready in spring are usually lettuce and peas.



LOOKING AHEAD

"Stewards are getting excited for the 2026 growing season! Raised beds will have old faithful standbys as well as newer offerings. There are rumblings that some new ART may be on the way. With the orchard entering its fifth year, stewards are hopeful for a bountiful harvest. Most of all we are excited to greet old friends and new." - LORI POWELL



GET INVOLVED

BHG partners with many community organizations, school groups and local businesses to connect folks to their neighbors through nature. Stewards provide garden tours, educational talks, and public speaking engagements.

We are fortunate to have a small, but very dedicated group of volunteers who meet twice a week to plant, prune, weed; whatever it takes to keep the garden growing.

BHG provides volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals- there are jobs for all ages and abilities, and tools to share. Groups looking to schedule a tour or volunteer opportunity can reach out via social media on Facebook or Instagram.

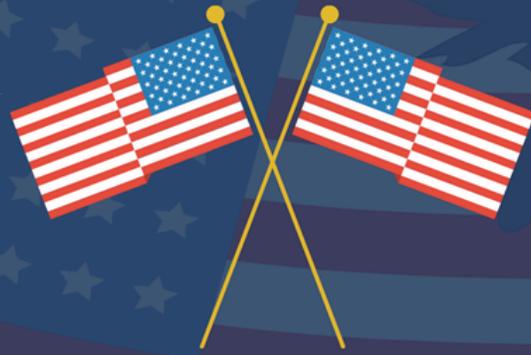
Belleville Heart Garden welcomes anyone to attend drop in volunteer hours starting Saturday, March 14th.

Weekly hours are Saturdays from 9-11 am and Wednesdays from 4:30-6 pm.

FOLLOW ALONG

[@bellevilleheartgarden](https://www.instagram.com/bellevilleheartgarden)

[facebook.com/bellevilleheartgarden](https://www.facebook.com/bellevilleheartgarden)



BELLEVILLE

Memorial Day Parade

MAY 25, 2026
10 AM

Parade starts at North 3rd & West 'A' Street; east on Main to Mascoutah Avenue; Mascoutah Avenue to Walnut Hill Cemetery. The Memorial Day Ceremony will take place after the parade at 11 AM at Walnut Hill Cemetery.

REMEMBER AND HONOR



[2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION](#)

AN EXPANSION WORTH WAITING FOR

PROGRESS AND EVENT UPDATES FROM THE BELLE-CLAIR FAIRGROUNDS



Exciting developments are taking place just south of Belleville's Honorary Veterans Memorial Square as the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds gear up for the opening season of the recently updated grounds' newest facilities. This new addition to the sprawling complex comes just in time for a full slate of markets and events in 2026.

The flea market, which consists of over 300 vendor booths that operate nearly 600 tables, has been a local favorite for weekend bargain shoppers nearly every month since 1974. Marketgoers can expect to find a wide variety of goods, including but not limited to antiques, retro sports and entertainment memorabilia, vintage clothing, and handmade items. The addition of the market barn space will allow the flea market to continue growing and serving the local community for years to come. Recurring flea markets will take place on the third full weekend of each month. Flea market weekend hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Other events round out the calendar, which is planned out through the end of July. Each show carries a theme, covering a wide range of interests and hobbies. From yearly favorites like the Gun and Knife Show, Auto/Motorcycle Swap Meets, Book Bazaar, The Forever Vintage Market, RV Shows, Belle-Clair is quickly turning into a second-hand shopping hotspot.

The fun doesn't stop at vendor fairs and craft shows! Other exciting events are coming to call Belle-Clair home in 2026. Their exhibitions occur on a semi-regular basis and offer affordable options for families to enjoy an action-packed Saturday night at the Fairgrounds.



We're excited to announce Fair St. Clair, the first St. Clair County Fair since 2014! Join us July 30th, 31st, and August 1st , 2026. More details coming soon – we can't wait to welcome everyone back.

Renovation of the expo hall and market barn is just one phase of the construction process on the 22-acre facility. Other scheduled improvements to the property include the construction of a new racetrack, and construction of a community shelter to be used in case of natural disasters.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND VENDOR
REGISTRATION, PATRONS ARE INVITED
TO CONTACT THE FAIRGROUNDS OFFICE AT
(618) 235-0666.**



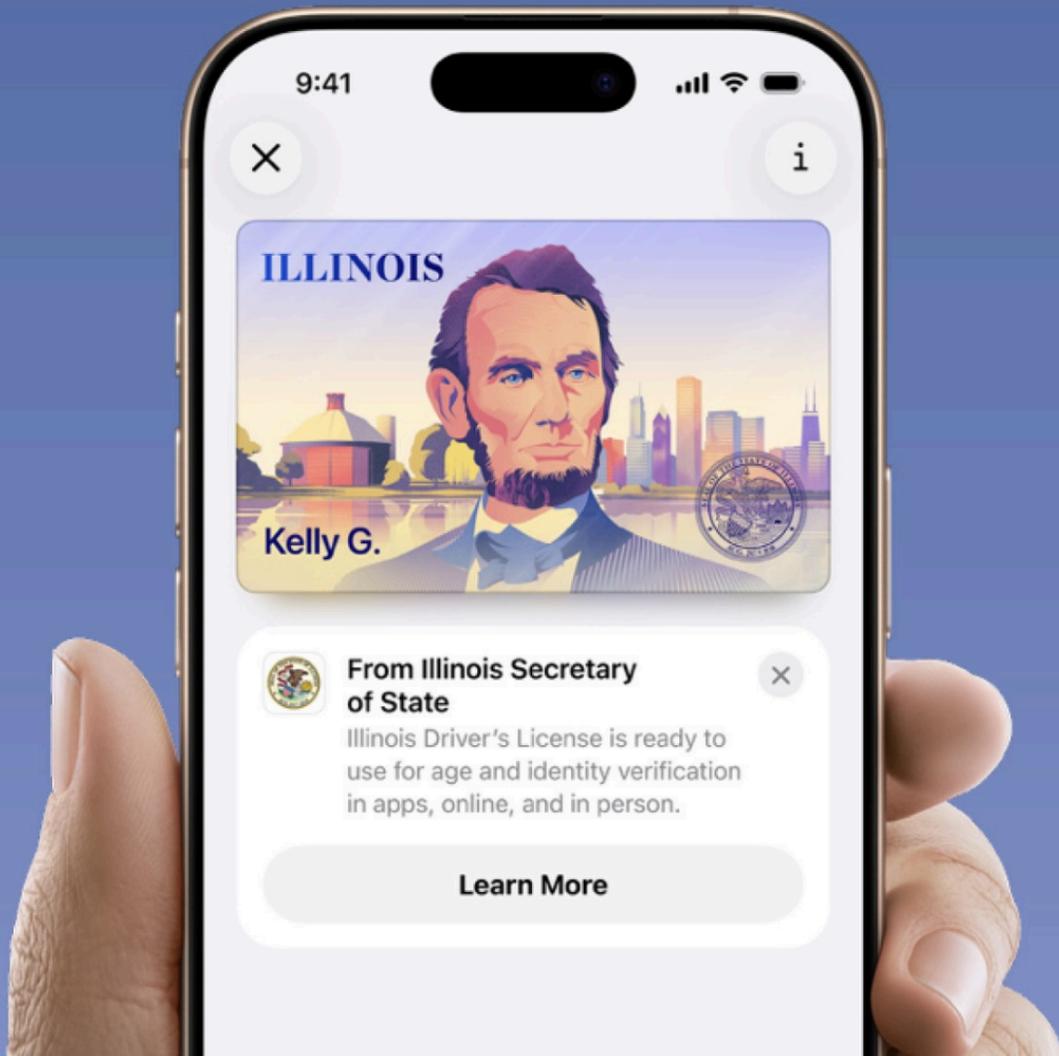
SECRETARY of STATE
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

Apple Wallet

Your Illinois ID. Now on iPhone.



Open Apple Wallet to get started.



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

JOIN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE As Our Next Economic Development Director

Are you ready to lead growth and innovation in one of the Metro East's most dynamic cities? The City of Belleville is seeking a visionary Economic Development Director to serve as our chief ambassador for economic growth, business attraction, and community investment.



**SHAPE
THE CITY**

NOW HIRING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

NEW

Empire Products Marketplace LLC – 5741 Belleville Crossing
Helfrich's Painting Company – 140 Iowa Avenue Suite #11
Schatze's – 2301 East Main Street
Chase Bank – 2508 Green Mount Commons Drive
First Care Express Care – 5720 North Belt West Suite #40
CWJ Global – 6400 West Main Street Suite #3G
Blush Home Décor by JSB Designs – 132 West Main Street
Calico Cottage Confections LLC – 3 Amann Court
Signature Stylez Barbershop – 56 South 65th Street Suite #4
The Harp Pub – 1112 West Main Street
JM Lawn Care LLC – 48 Empire Drive
Grooming by Megan DBA Bark of the Town – 400 Carlyle Avenue
Shain's Tavern – 1501 West Main Street
Office of State Rep. Jay Hoffman – 2300 West Main Street Suite #M200
Vinyl Flooring Wholesale – 1642 Carlyle Avenue
Lady Sew Creations LLC – 4717 West Main Street Suite #8-B
Trolley Circle Apartments – 7225 West Main Street Building #A
Trolley Circle Apartments – 7235 West Main Street Building #B
Doula Lab – 6608 West Main Street Suite #2
Belleville Clean and Lube – 410 Sherman Street
Omega Mastermind Bureau LLC – 140 Iowa Avenue Suite #203
Mi Nail LLC – 5725 Belleville Crossing
Discount Tire – 5500 Belleville Crossing Street
SRPP LLC DBA Standard Rule Promotions – 5600 West Main Street
Total Wellness IHR24-306 DBA Innovative HR 24 LLC – 2346 Mascoutah Avenue, Suite #106
Queen Esther's Artistry – 6400 West Main Street, Suite #1D
Dollar Tree – 2525 Green Mount Commons Drive, Suite #220
Next Level Hair Studio LLC – 4825 West Main Street
Nurturing by Faith Home Care LLC – 6400 West Main Street, Suite #3H
Oates Associates – 100 West Main Street

PLEASE
JOIN US &
WELCOME

NEW
BUSINESSES

TO THE
CITY OF
BELLEVILLE

(10/21/2025-2/1/2026)

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

NEARLY 100 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED THEIR DOORS IN BELLEVILLE IN 2025.

1. Strands 31, LLC (DBA: Strands) – 15 South High Street
2. Cellular World (DBA: AT&T Authorized Retailer) – 2525 Green Mount Commons Drive Suite #100
3. Burwitz, Sostak, 7 Werner LLC – 321 East Main Street
4. Affordable Family Storage/Cube Smart – 4201 North Belt West
5. My Mini Gifts – 6500 West Main Street
6. Synergy Labs, LLC – 915 South Charles Street
7. KOB Studios – 6727 West Main Street
8. Reinhardt & Hursey Transportation, LLC – 56 South 65th Street
9. Economy Inn – 400 South Illinois Street
10. The Scholar Academy, LLC – 2511 Eastview Drive
11. Meineke Car Care Center – 2307 Old Collinsville Road
12. Next Level Auto – 422 North Illinois Street
13. Meineke Car Care Center – 3608 North Belt West
14. Serenity Now Massage – 4717 West Main Street Suite #1
15. Belleville Elks Lodge #481 – 30 East Main Street
16. Good Life Rentals – 322 Lebanon Avenue
17. I Don't Know – 4004 West Main Street
18. Belt Line Liquor – 1721 South Belt West
19. Sparger Center for Performing Arts – 120 North Jackson Street
20. Asher Mill Photography – 733 Lebanon Avenue
21. Spring Spa – 700 South Illinois Street
22. Ollie's Bargain Outlet – 104 Caryle Avenue
23. East End Automotive – 650 Sherman Street
24. Belleville Blended Braids – 5003 West Main Street
25. U-Mark, Inc – 1200 East A Street
26. Express Diagnostics – 309 North Illinois Street
27. JS and Sons Construction – 205 South Illinois Street
28. Wingstop – 5870 Belleville Crossing
29. The Kid Kave Early Learning Center – 1650-1652 Lebanon Avenue
30. J&R Collision Center – 1904 North Belt East
31. Thrifty Swag – 1909 North Belt East
32. Collective Style House – 6500 West Main Street Suite #337
33. LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant – 400 South Illinois Street
34. Cabinetry 33, LLC – 4428 North Belt West



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

NEARLY 100 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED THEIR DOORS IN BELLEVILLE IN 2025. (CONT'D)

35. Miracles Due Happen – 1905 North Belt West
36. Keller Farms Inc
37. Madelyn Day & Associates – 103 West Main Street
38. Economy Inn – 400 South Illinois Street
39. El Jacal Mexican Restaurant – 1550 East State Route 15
40. A&C Appliance Repair – 6911 West Main Street
41. The Body of Christ – 9 North 47th Street
42. Stein Haus – 805 South Illinois Street
43. Save The Girls – 9300 West Main Street
44. Clark Content Creation Studio – 56 South 65th Street
45. Transparent Real Estate – 6602 West Main Street Suite #C
46. Da Diva's Danceland LLC – 15/17 North 47th Street
47. Belleville Express – 2709 West Main Street
48. Metro East Organizing Coalition – 4717 West Main Street Suite #2
49. Verizon Wireless – 5630 Belleville Crossing Street
50. Extra Space Storage – 4201 North Belt West
51. MIT Insurance, LLC – 631 Mascoutah Avenue
52. Bungalow – 318 East Main Street
53. Fresh Ink Tattoos – 117 West Main Street
54. Unforgettable Fittings – 5 North 47th Street
55. Metro East Sportsplex Company – 2346 Mascoutah Avenue Suite #104
56. L. Hall and Sons – 5312 West Main Street Suite #C
57. Riley's Healthy Friends DBA The Barkery – 335 West Main Street
58. Tucker Athletic Performance – 2346 Mascoutah Avenue Suite #4
59. Spa 4 Paws Pet Services – 2347 Old Collinsville Road Suite #216
60. 1 Bee Hive Market – 6500 West Main Street Suite #216
61. Velora Beauty – 5541 Belleville Crossing Street
62. Bath and Body Works – 5731 Belleville Crossing Street
63. Regions Bank – 5401 North Belt West
64. Nupe Swagg LLC – 1820 North Belt West
65. Nikki Styles – 6400 West Main Street Suite #3M
66. Babe Luxe Bar – 3 Bellevue Park Plaza Drive
67. World Class Gymnastics – 2346 Mascoutah Avenue Suite #104
68. Dewitt's TLG Art Gallery – 140 Iowa Avenue Suite #9
69. Empire Products Marketplace LLC – 5741 Belleville Crossing Street
70. Helfrich's Painting Company – 140 Iowa Avenue Suite #11
71. Schatze's – 2301 East Main Street
72. Chase Bank – 2508 Green Mount Commons Drive



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

NEARLY 100 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED THEIR DOORS IN BELLEVILLE IN 2025. (CONT'D)

- 73. First Care Express Care – 5720 North Belt West
- 74. CWJ Global – 5400 West Main Street Suite #3G
- 75. Blush Home Décor by JSB Designs – 132 West Main Street
- 76. Calico Cottage Confections LLC – 3 Amann Court
- 77. Signature Stylez Barbershop – 56 South 65th Street Suite #4
- 78. The Harp Pub – 1112 West Main Street
- 79. JM Lawn Care LLC – 48 Empire Drive Suite #B
- 80. Grooming by Megan DBA Bark of the Town – 400 Carlyle Avenue
- 81. Shain's Tavern – 1501 West Main Street
- 82. Office of State Rep. Jay Hoffman – 2300 West Main Street Suite #M200
- 83. Vinyl Flooring Wholesale – 1642 Caryle Avenue
- 84. Lady Sew Creations LLC – 4717 West Main Street Suite #8-B
- 85. Trolley Circle Apartments – 7225 Westfield Plaza Drive Building #A
- 86. Trolley Circle Apartments – 7235 Westfield Plaza Drive Building #B
- 87. Doula Lab – 6608 West Main Street Suite #2
- 88. Belleville Clean and Lube – 410 Sherman Street



Choose Belleville First.

visit *ExploreBelleville.net*
to support your
LOCAL EVERYTHING

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ENGINEERING DEPT



Pavement patching on Chestnut Drive



Pavement patching on Lake Forest Drive



Sidewalk curb ramp replacement at Walnut Street and East D Street

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

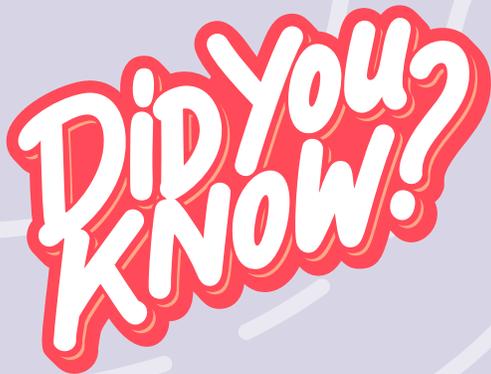
ENGINEERING DEPT (continued)



18-inch diameter stormwater pipe replacement on Southgate Drive



36-inch diameter storm water pipe replacement on Green Mount Lane



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The City of Belleville maintains 560 lane miles of roadway, more than half of the lane roadway maintained by the City of St. Louis.

So far this Winter, the Public Works Department has applied **2815.18 tons** of salt to treat City of Belleville roadways.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Belleville Fire Department Water Team conducted 4th Quarter Water Training in partnership with SCSES during a combined training exercise. Crews were familiarized with SCSES equipment, reviewed previously identified high-risk flooding areas, and toured Mississippi River boat access points. Hands-on training was also conducted at the East Belleville YMCA pool, including throw bag deployments, rescue tote swims, and emergency procedures.

A special thank you to SCSES and the East Belleville YMCA for helping make this training possible.



The Station 4 crew drilled on apartment complex fire tactics. These buildings present unique challenges, so we practiced:

- Long Lead-Outs: Stretching hose lines through complex layouts to reach and suppress the fire fast.
- Ladder Operations: Ensuring quick access to upper floors.
- Search & Rescue: Refining our plan to get everyone out safely.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

FIRE DEPARTMENT (continued)



Our role was simple — provide a place to give. You filled it with kindness.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Caritas Family Solutions Toy Drive this past holiday season!

Space Heater SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Place on a Flat, Fireproof Surface
- ✓ Keep 3 Feet Away from Flammable items
- ✓ Never Leave Unattended
- ✓ Unplug When Not in Use
- ✓ Check for Damage or Worn Cords
- ✓ Use Tip-Over & Overheat Protection
- ✓

STAY WARM & STAY SAFE!

An illustration of a space heater in a living room. The heater is on a rug, and there are various items around it, including a lamp, a chair, and a doorway. The heater is shown in two positions: one where it's plugged in and one where it's unplugged. The background shows a window with snow outside.

KEEP YOUR GAS TANK FULL IN EXTREME COLD

PREVENT GAS LINES FROM FREEZING

Low fuel level leads to moisture in the tank, which can freeze in fuel lines

Keep tank at least half full to help prevent frozen fuel lines

You may end up stuck in traffic or need the car for heat

A FULLER TANK IS SAFER IN BITTER COLD

An advertisement for keeping gas tanks full in winter. The background is a snowy, icy scene. A gas pump nozzle is shown inserted into a car's gas tank. There are several gas gauges shown, some with snowflakes and some with low fuel levels. A thermometer at the bottom shows a low temperature. The text is in bold, white and yellow letters.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT

NEW HIRES / REHIRE

DArtez Hardin - Police Officer - 01/21/26

Brett Winegarner - Polic Officer - 01/21/26

Maverick Wagner - Maintenance - 01/05/2026

Logan Henry - Recreation Supervisor - Parks and Rec - 01/05/2026

Ryan Stone - Police Officer - 12/22/2025

Luke Davidson - Police Officer - 12/22/2025

Tessa Heskett - Police Officer - 12/22/2025

Dylan Taylor - Telecommunicator - 12/18/2025

Courtney Howard - Telecommunicator - 12/08/2025

Anna Comstock - Telecommunicator - 12/08/2025

Craig Stephens - Sewer Billing - Treasurer Dept - 12/01/2025

Jace O'Connell - Shift Operator - Wastewater Treatment Dept - 11/17/2025

Madie Nych - Clerk - Parks and Recreation - 11/17/2025

Mieczyslaw Kacprzyk - Firefighter - 11/10/2025

Connor Shock - Firefighter - 11/10/2025

Quinn Tompkins - Part-Time Library Clerk - 11/10/2025

Amy Gum - Part-Time Library Clerk - 11/10/2025

Margaret Riddle - Part-Time Library Clerk - 11/03/2025

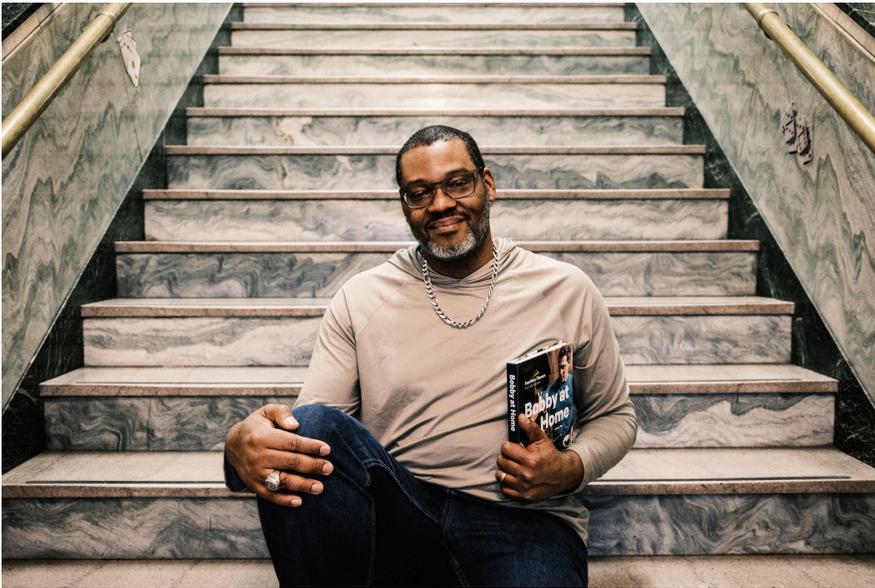
Dusty Hosna - Planning and Zoning Administration - Economic Development - 10/13/2025

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

Charles Hoepker retired December 2025 with 30 years of service.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



IN THE REGION

SIX ONE EIGHT ILLINOIS LIBRARIES SERIES

THE BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BECOMES THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE DOCUMENTARY PHOTO ESSAY SERIES BY **STEPHEN KENNEDY**

The Belleville Public Library is the most recent subject of local artist, Stephen Kennedy's Six One Eight Illinois Libraries photo essay series.

The photo essays are captured inside public libraries located within the 618 area code.

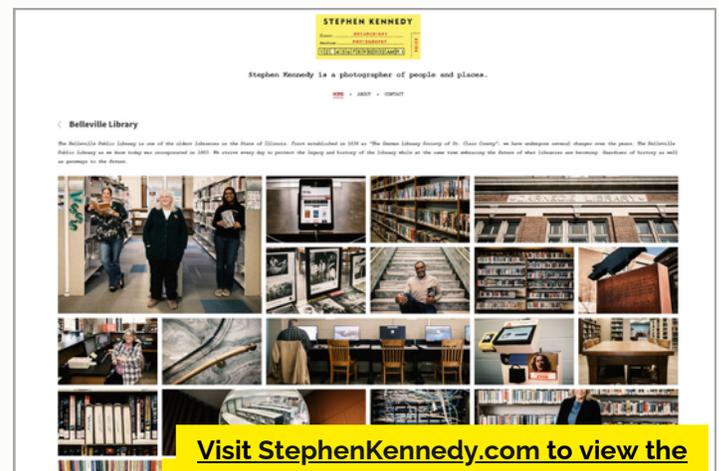
The intent of Kennedy's Six One Eight series is to show what public libraries look and feel like at this very moment. A great reminder to visit the Main and West branches and find out what's new.

Photo by Stephen Kennedy

READ MORE

We sat down with **Stephen Kennedy** to learn more about the Six One Eight Libraries series, how his early days in Alton led to the project and the momentum in-between.

Read our interview on [ExploreBelleville.net](https://www.explorebelleville.net).

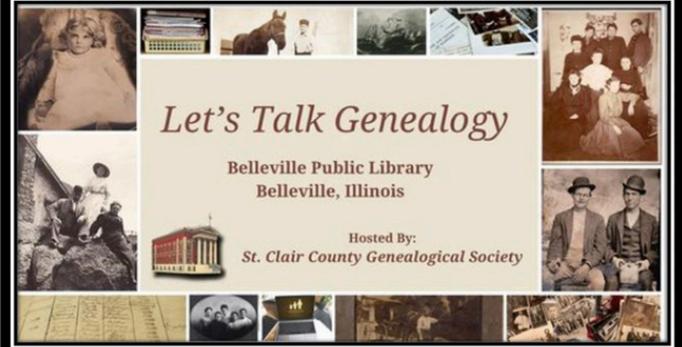


DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY (continued)

FURTHER INTO THE PAST:
A Local History Series
First in the Series
"Lincoln in Belleville, 1840 & 1856"
Thursday, February 26, 2026
11 a.m.
Belleville Public Main Library

William P. Shannon IV, Executive Director of the St. Clair County Historical Society & Curator of the Society's museums, presents a series of programs focusing on local history .
Programs will be held at 11 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of every other month beginning in February. (Feb./April/June/Aug./Oct.)
Please register at the Main Circulation Desk or call 618-234-0441.



Let's Talk Genealogy
Belleville Public Library
Belleville, Illinois
Hosted By:
St. Clair County Genealogical Society

Free at 12:00 p.m., the 4th Thursday of each month.
Call (618) 234-0441 to save your seat.

SENIOR BOOK
BINGO
Belleville Public Main Library
121 East Washington Street
The 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1p.m.
Be sure to register by calling 618-234-0441 or stop by the Circulation Desk at the Main Library.

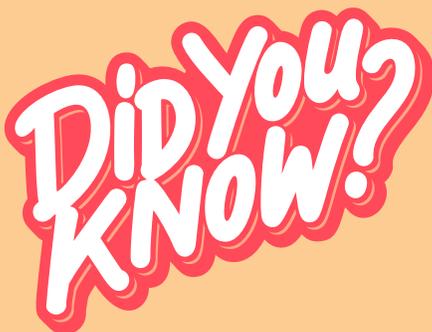
Belleville Public Library
Passport Services
By appointment only.
Call: 618-234-0441

- ✓ New and first time passport applications.
- ✓ Photo services available for a \$10 fee.

Visit travel.state.gov for more information on requirements, fees, and special circumstances.



BELLEVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

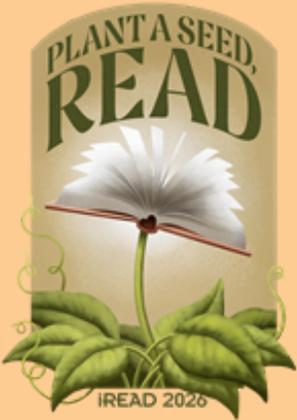


The **Media Lab** at the Belleville Public Library provides a wide range of equipment and services for the public to use, including recording equipment, 3D printers, Adobe editing software, and many other options.

Learn more about the Media Lab and see a list of available equipment.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY / CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



Summer 2026 Reading Program **Plant A Seed, Read**

Plant a Seed, Read is rooted in the concept of farm-to-table. A farm grows food that nourishes our bodies; a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology. iREAD 2026: Plant a Seed, Read will provide a context for exploring culture, history, science, health, and human connection.

Registration for the Summer Reading Program opens May 31st. Visit either the Main or West Branches to get started!

**Reading Dragons
& Friends**

Read to earn trading cards to play against your friends or to start a new collection.
Great for kids reading chapter books.
Ages 8 - 12
121 E Washington Street

LEGO Club

Join us the 1st Tuesday of every month for fun LEGO challenges.

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Ages 12 and under

121 East Washington Street
(618)234-0441

PROUD HISTORY. BRIGHT FUTURE.
BELLEVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mother Goose Storytime

Join Miss Becky for nursery rhymes, stories, fingerplay and singing every Tuesday at 10:00am.



Best for ages 0-3



121 East Washington Street

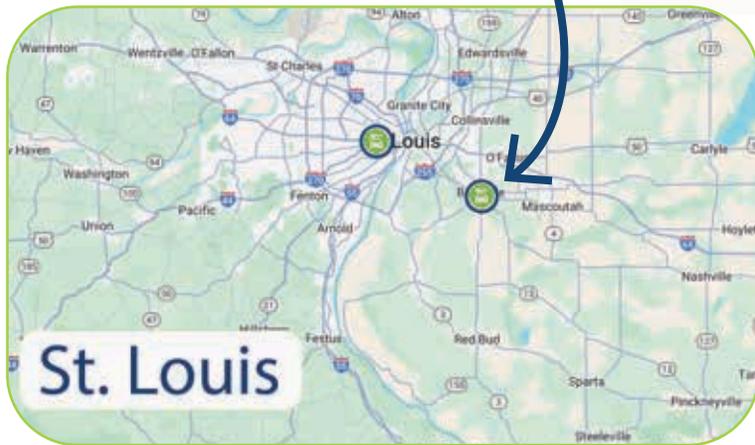


Need a car? Drive one of ours.

\$5/hr



Now available at the
Belleville Library!



We're growing! Check our website for more locations, coming soon.

Sign up for \$10, complete an orientation, book your car, and drive. Download the app to get started:



mdocarshare.org/STL



Access a network of
all-electric cars 24/7
for \$5/hour or
\$50/day.

Insurance and 150
miles included with
each trip!

Powered by Mobility Development in partnership with Forth, Ameren, McCormack Baron, Urban League, Belleville Public Library, and Eastern Missouri Alliance for Clean Transportation

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

BELLEVILLE PARKS DEPARTMENT

BELLEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION CELEBRATES:

NATIONAL PARKS WEEK 2026

JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE FREE ACTIVITIES!

MON.	APR 20	MONDAY MORNING WINDCHIMES All supplies included to make a beautiful windchime! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• THE NCC: 515 EAST D ST.• 9:30AM - 11 AM	
TUES.	APR 21	SUNSET STROLL IN BICENTENNIAL PARK Enjoy a walk around our lakes and greenspace as you learn about plant life! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BICENTENNIAL PARK: 4811 BELLEVILLE XING• 5:30 - 6:30 PM	
WED.	APR 22	REEL & RELAX: SENIOR FISHING BASICS (55+) Always wanted to learn to fish? Here's your chance! All supplies provided to learn. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• STONE LODGE: 401 BELLEVUE PARK DR• 10 AM	
THURS.	APR 23	FIRESIDE FEASTS: OUTDOOR COOKING CLASS Try your hand at making tortillas and s'mores over a campfire! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LADERMAN PARK: 1105 MASCOUTAH AVE.• 6 PM	
FRI.	APR 24	BOTANICAL BINGO (21+) Nature-inspired, adults only bingo with plant themed prizes and garden-chic fun! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• THE CAMPUS: 2300 W MAIN ST• 7 - 9 PM	

SCAN TO SIGN UP!
Pre-Registration is required for all activities.
belleville.net/parks • 618-233-1416
All activities are subject to registration deadlines & max enrollments



Our Winter Art Contest truly blew us out of the water! Kids are so creative, and we loved seeing the incredible variety of styles and ideas shared this year.

A huge THANK YOU to our amazing sponsor, Art on the Square. Because of their continued support, we're able to award cash prizes to winners in each grade and provide fun raffle prizes for many other outstanding entries.



Did You Know?

The City of Belleville Christmas tree recycling has collected dozens of trees at pick-up locations in our parks so far!

The trees will all be reused; some being sunk in our lakes for fish habitats and others being donated to Carlyle Lake for habitat and conservation use.



Belleville PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE



JAN - AUG 2026

ISSUE 17

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In January, BPD swore in lateral hires **Officer Hardin** and **Officer Winegarner** to start the FTO process.

The Police Field Training Officer (FTO) process is a post-academy program where recruits apply classroom knowledge to real-time patrol duties under the guidance of experienced officers.

It bridges theory with practical application, focusing on mentoring, enforcing agency policy, and evaluating performance through daily reports to ensure readiness for solo patrol.



The FOP Lodge #226 and Belleville Police Department are partnering with Cities in Harmony again for the annual **Touch-a-Truck Event!** This year, the event will be held on April 25, 2026, at the SWIC Police Academy at 2300 W. Main St., from 10am-3pm!

Belleville FOP Early Bird Gun Raffle will take place the evening of February 27th. Members of the Belleville Lodge #226 are selling tickets now to be entered into the 52 gun raffle and early bird drawing!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS
FREE FAMILY EVENT

CITIES IN HARMONY

APRIL 25TH, 2026 FROM 11:00-3:00PM

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS JUSTICE AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CAMPUS (FORMERLY LINDENWOOD)
2300 WEST MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62226



JOIN US IN PARTNERSHIP WITH *TOUCH A TRUCK* FOR OUR THIRD ANNUAL CITIES IN HARMONY EVENT. IT WILL BE A MEMORABLE DAY FOR OUR METRO EAST REGION AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

*** BELONGING BEGINS WITH THE METRO EAST ***



WHAT CAN YOUR FAMILY EXPECT?

- RAFFLE PRIZES
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- FACE PAINTING
- LIVE MUSIC
- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- GIVEAWAYS

ALL FOR FREE!!!!



BELLEVILLE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 118
Educate Students • Empower Individuals • Build Character



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MONET WEBSTER AT 618-233-2414 OR MWEBSTER@BELLEVILLE118.ORG

Ride Safe. Ride Smart. Ride Ready.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, in collaboration with the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, legislators, and cycling advocates, have launched a comprehensive initiative to address road safety concerns related to high-speed e-bikes and other unregulated micromobility devices:

- Set common-sense guidelines
- Educate the public &
- Improve road safety for everyone

Learn more: [ILSOS.GOV/ONEROAD](https://ilsos.gov/oneroad)

SECRETARY of STATE



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



At Illinois American Water, we want to help keep life flowing to our customers. We know that when finances are stretched thin, it can be hard to get back on track once an account falls behind. If you're experiencing financial hardship, please reach out to us. We may be able to assist. Please visit illinoisamwater.com > Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.



INCOME-BASED DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Illinois American Water has partnered with Dollar Energy to launch the Income-Based Discount Program. Eligible customers will receive a monthly discount on their water and/or wastewater bill. For more information, please visit illinoisamwater.com > **Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.**



H2O HELP TO OTHERS PROGRAM™

H2O Help to Others is a customer assistance program created by Illinois American Water and Illinois' Salvation Army agencies. The program helps provide supplemental funding to residential customers who would otherwise have trouble paying their bills. For more information, please visit illinoisamwater.com > **Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.**



PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

If you cannot pay your bill by the due date, please contact our Customer Service Center immediately, before the due date at **800-422-2782**. Our team will work with you on a plan to pay the balance of your bill over time. Both residential and Commercial/Industrial customers can enroll in a payment plan.



BUDGET BILLING

Budget Billing provides a fixed monthly payment over a period of 12 months based on the residential customer's anticipated annual billing. Please call **800-422-2782** to learn more.

SERVICE. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.



Contact: Ameren Communications
314.554.2182 (Missouri media)
618.407.6894 (Illinois media)
communications@ameren.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Year Relief: New Funds Available for Ameren Customers

Ameren encourages customers to apply for energy bill assistance in 2026

Editor's note: [B-roll](#) is available in Ameren's online media kits.

ST. LOUIS (Jan. 8, 2026) – Ameren is reminding residential customers across Missouri and Illinois that a wide range of resources remain available to support qualifying households with their energy bills in 2026. In addition to programs funded by the company, Ameren partners with United Way of Greater St. Louis, the Energy Assistance Foundation and hundreds of Community Action Agencies to ensure customers can apply for funds, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

“As we start the new year, we’re encouraging customers in need to make one simple resolution: Don’t wait to ask for help,” said **Joe Solari**, vice president of customer experience for Ameren. “Applying early for energy assistance prevents small challenges from becoming big burdens after the cold weather passes. Our teams are here to support you the moment you need it.”

Ameren also invites customers who are able to give back to their communities to partner with the company by making a one-time or recurring contribution to either the Dollar More program in Missouri or Warm Neighbors Cool Friends in Illinois. For more information on all available resources, visit [Ameren.com/Assistance](https://ameren.com/Assistance).

Missouri Assistance Spotlight: Dollar More Program

Ameren partners with United Way of Greater St. Louis and local Community Action Agencies to offer the [Dollar More program](#), which is funded by voluntary donations, to customers across its Missouri service territory. The company recognized a greater need for assistance and, in December, contributed an additional \$2 million for Missouri customers.

- Dollar More provides eligible households up to \$600 per calendar year.
- Qualifications for the program have increased up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

“Dollar More remains one of the most meaningful examples of neighbors helping neighbors,” said **Michelle D. Tucker**, president and CEO of United Way of Greater St. Louis. “We see the impact every day, and we’re proud to partner with Ameren to ensure that anyone facing a difficult moment can access the help they need, exactly when they need it.”

**Illinois Assistance Spotlight: Warm Neighbors Cool Friends**

Ameren partners with the Energy Assistance Foundation on [Warm Neighbors Cool Friends](#), a program that is also funded by voluntary donations, to provide customers with funds across its Illinois service territory. The company recognized a greater need for assistance and, in December, contributed an additional \$2 million for Illinois customers.

- Warm Neighbors Cool Friends provides eligible households with up to \$500 in bill payment assistance through the Energy Assistance Foundation. A matching customer payment is required within the last 45 days.
- Eligibility includes customers with incomes between 200% and 300% of the FPL or at 80% of the county's Area Median Income (AMI).

"Warm Neighbors Cool Friends acts as a critical lifeline for hardworking families who may not qualify for federal assistance but are still struggling to keep their homes safe and comfortable," said **Susan Sams**, executive director of the Energy Assistance Foundation. "We're proud to partner with Ameren so its customers have somewhere to turn when they need support the most."

Throughout 2025, Ameren partnered with hundreds of Community Action Agencies to make more than \$140 million in energy assistance and LIHEAP support available to customers across both states. This amount is inclusive of a \$250,000 grant made by Ameren in December to Heat Up St. Louis (heatupstlouis.org). The nonprofit serves seniors, people with disabilities and income-eligible families across Missouri and Illinois.

"Our longstanding collaboration with Ameren strengthens our ability to serve the region's most vulnerable neighbors," said **Ben Turec**, board president of Heat Up St. Louis. "If you are experiencing difficulty with your energy bill, please reach out for assistance to HeatUpStLouis.org."

About Ameren Corporation

St.Louis-based Ameren Corporation powers the quality of life for 2.5 million electric customers and more than 900,000 natural gas customers in a 64,000-square-mile area through its Ameren Missouri and Ameren Illinois rate-regulated utility subsidiaries. Ameren Illinois provides electric transmission and distribution service and natural gas distribution service. Ameren Missouri provides electric generation, transmission and distribution services, as well as natural gas distribution service. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois develops, owns and operates rate-regulated regional electric transmission projects in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. For more information, visit Ameren.com, or follow us at [@AmerenCorp](https://twitter.com/AmerenCorp), [Facebook.com/AmerenCorp](https://facebook.com/AmerenCorp), or [LinkedIn.com/company/Ameren](https://linkedin.com/company/Ameren).

###

JOIN US AT WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S®!

Belleville

Moody Park
September 19, 2026



TEAMS BUILD COMMUNITY!

Register today at alz.org/BellevilleWalk.

1. Start a team.

Sign up as a Team Captain or join an existing team. Make a self-donation to kick off your fundraising!

2. Invite others to join you.

Ask friends, family and co-workers to join your team while raising awareness and funds.

3. Walk with us.

Come together with your community on Walk day.

Questions?

Joslyn Stone
jmstone@alz.org

WALK TO END
ALZHEIMER'S
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

**Call 618-233-6810 to
talk to our operator**

DEPARTMENTS

Economic Dev., x 1250

Engineering, x 4272

Finance, x 1233

Human Resources, x 2280

Info. Tech (IT), x 1254

Mayor, x 1207

Police (Non-Emergency)

618-234-1212

Fire (Non-Emergency)

618-234-2236

General & Community Asst.

618-212-4379

Health, Housing & Building

618-233-6817

Library (Main Branch)

618-234-0441

Library (West Branch)

618-233-4366

Parks & Recreation

618-233-1416

Nichols Center

618-277-9765

Public Works / Streets

618-239-3454

Sewer

618-233-7146

Tourism

618-967-9459

**FOLLOW
YOUR CITY**

City of Belleville

@WELCOMETOBELLEVILLEIL

Economic Development,
Planning & Zoning

@BELLEVILLEEDPZ

Fire Department

@BELLEVILLEFIRE

Human Resources

@HUMANRESOURCES618

Library

@BELLEVILLELIBRARY

Parks and Recreation

@BELLEVILLEPARKS

Police Department

@BELLEVILLEILPOLICE

**ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer

618-233-6518, x 1207

City Clerk

Shelly Schaefer

618-233-6518, x 1227

City Treasurer

Sarah Biermann

618-233-6518, x 1241

WARD 1

Bryan Whitaker

618-971-5409

Lillian Schneider

618-207-7335

WARD 2

Carmen Duco

618-233-1569

Gigi Dowling Urban

618-750-1019

WARD 3

Kent Randle

618-239-9227

Scott Ferguson

618-610-5639

WARD 4

Johnnie Anthony

618-520-9784

Raffi Ovia

618-444-5171

WARD 5

Edward Dintelman

618-972-5569

Kathy Kaiser

618-444-3802

WARD 6

Dr. Mary Stiehl

618-606-1277

Chris Rothweiler

618-416-5568

WARD 7

Phil Elmore

618-363-0016

Dennis Weygandt

618-580-3054

WARD 8

Nora Sullivan

618-972-9185

Kara Osthoff

618-578-2488

