IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SPRING 2026

Digging? Call 811 first

With the arrival of spring, many homeowners head outdoors to tackle landscaping and other home improvement projects. Before you dig, Call **JULIE** at **811** or submit a locate request to **Illinois-1Call.com** at least three working days in advance of digging. This free service marks underground utility lines, helping you avoid costly damage, service interruptions, and serious injuries.

Ameren Illinois donates $1 Million to innovative Ag & Nutrition Center

As a long-time partner to the Jackie Joyner-Kersee Foundation, Ameren Illinois was proud to donate $1 million to support the Foundation's new Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Innovation Center. Featuring state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, greenhouses, and community gardens, the center will provide STEM and Ag-Science education for K-12 students. In addition, nutrition and wellness programs and workforce training will empower more than 15,000 youth, adults, and families to lead healthier lives and build stronger communities.

Ameren ILLINOIS

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In this issue of **In Your Neighborhood**, we share regional stories and updates that focus on energy-saving strategies, reliability, safety, and community support — keeping you informed about topics that matter most to you and your neighbors.

Energize your spring cleaning

Spring is a great time to freshen up your home's energy efficiency. Because you might use heat and air conditioning throughout the season, here are actions you can take to help manage your energy usage and stay comfortable.

- Change your HVAC filter for efficient heating and cooling
- Make sure air vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes
- Set your ceiling fans to turn counterclockwise as temps rise
- Clean refrigerator coils and vacuum air intake vents

For more energy-saving tips, visit **Ameren.com/SpringTips**.

Need help paying your energy bill?

If you're struggling to keep up with energy bills, you're not alone. We're here to help with energy assistance programs and payment plans. You may qualify for more than one program.

Visit **Ameren.com/GetSupport** to learn more and apply.

Ameren Illinois' plan will boost reliability, offer tools for customers to save money

Ameren Illinois recently submitted its future grid plan to the Illinois Commerce Commission, which regulates energy in Illinois, for approval. The proposal seeks to help the grid better withstand severe storms, reduce the frequency and duration of outages, and give customers tools and programs to help reduce usage and bills. A modern grid also increases Illinois' competitive edge to attract and retain businesses and create new jobs in our communities.

Learn more at **Ameren.com/SystemUpgrades**.

We're ready for spring storms. *Are you?*

Before severe weather hits, take a few minutes to prepare your home for protection and peace of mind. Secure outdoor items and register any electrical medical equipment with Ameren. You can also sign up for outage alerts. Charge your cell phone, enable weather alerts, and refresh batteries in your flashlights and radio. Finally, prepare your storm shelter and an emergency kit with essentials for you and your pets, including non-perishable foods, bottled water, and medications.