

WIRC-CAA announces start of energy assistance program

The Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA), administrator of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties, is pleased to announce that grant funds are available to help income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane and electric bills, and with furnace assistance.

LIHEAP provides one-time benefits to income-eligible homeowners/renters to help them with their energy bills and with reconnection of energy service, if applicable. The most recent round of the programs began September 1, 2021 for all income-eligible households. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis through May 31, 2022. There will be no priority groups this program year.

Households must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to receive a LIHEAP benefit. The monthly income guidelines are as follows: \$2,147 for a one-person household; \$2,903 for a two-person household; \$3,660 for a three-person household; and \$4,417 for a four-person household. Visit WIRC-CAA's website at wirpc.org/liheap/ or call 309-837-2997 to see income limits for households with five members or more. Depending on your specific situation, you may be given the option to accept a one-time payment to your utility provider through LIHEAP or to enroll in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP).



PIPP is available for LIHEAP-eligible households who are customers of one of the following utilities: Ameren Illinois; ComEd; Nicor Gas; North Shores Gas; or Peoples Gas. PIPP consists of a monthly benefit that will be applied to your utility bill as long as you make your on-time monthly utility payment. The amount of assistance you receive will be determined during your appointment. PIPP applicants will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. The program will be offered until March 31, 2022 or when WIRC-CAA has reached the maximum capacity of households for the program. Increasing PIPP enrollment is a program goal for this year. **10526-27**

The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP and PIPP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household.

Propane customers are encouraged to apply when the program opens in September to take greater advantage of lower propane prices. Propane prices typically increase during the winter months, so propane users who apply early will see their LIHEAP benefit go further.

Households in need in the four-county area are encouraged to call WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 to schedule an appointment.

Applications are being taken by phone until further notice.

To apply, you **MUST** submit the following documentation:

1. Proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application.
2. Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. (Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and WIRC-CAA will advise accordingly).
3. A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
4. Other documents may be needed based on household situation. If you have questions regarding this, please call WIRC-CAA.
5. A copy of rental agreement (if renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact.

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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

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Please call WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 to schedule an appointment, for information on what documents are needed to apply, and to learn how to complete an application. **396-47**

WIRC-CAA is a multifaceted agency that serves multiple counties in western Illinois. The Agency's Community Action Agency Department provides a wide range of social service programs for people in need, including a food pantry, clothing center, energy assistance program, and more. For more information about WIRC & CAA, visit their website at wirpc.org, find Western Illinois Regional Council & Community Action Agency on social media, or call their office at 309-837-2997.

Welcome New Members

Krista Artman
Kelly Feikert
Kathleen Goryl
Chris Harrell
Bryton & Delaney Hopp
Jennifer McFadden
Melissa & Joshua Plate
Jordan Sells
Jared Williams

July
2021



Ted Shutwell

Map Location Winner - August issue

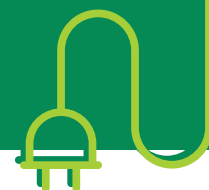
Congratulations!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



“You Are My Sunshine” is the theme at Hancock Village

Memorial Hospital Foundation is excited to announce the 2021 You Are My Sunshine campaign to raise funds for a beautiful four-seasons room on the campus of Hancock Village. The four-seasons room will be located where the existing outdoor patio sits at Hickory Grove. This sunroom will offer a superb location for our seniors to enjoy without the elements of the outdoors. The You Are My Sunshine four-seasons room will have an open space concept with seating and planters for a lovely garden atmosphere. This room will provide a peaceful location for residents to enjoy reading or activities, family visits, or simply provide a wonderful view throughout the year. This four-season room will be one more way to enhance the quality of life at Hancock Village, which includes Hickory Grove Supportive Living and Maple Grove Memory Care. The name of the campaign, “You Are My Sunshine,” was chosen by the Hancock Village residents.

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, Memorial Hospital Foundation will be hosting a Lights of Joy Holiday Parade as part of the Chamber Open House on the Carthage square. Decorate, light and tinsel your tractor, truck or side by side and be a part of this unique holiday fun! The parade route will begin on Main Street, cruise around the Carthage square, and end at the Hancock Village campus for our residents’ viewing pleasure. The foundation is seeking sponsors for this event. Sponsorship levels and general information are available through the foundation office. All proceeds will go toward the You Are My Sunshine campaign. **3824-23**

Kristen Doyle, director of nursing at Hancock Village, feels the sunroom will be a positive addition to the Hancock Village campus. Doyle said, “The past year has been hard for a lot of people, especially our seniors. This new room will give them something special to look forward to, a little sunshine for them! This is a great opportunity for our community to show our residents how much we care about them!”



Pictured are residents of Hancock Village. From left to right: Carl A. Hartweg, Sandra Shipman (standing) and Mary Patrick.

Hancock Village includes Hickory Grove Supportive Living and Maple Grove Memory Care. Hickory Grove offers apartments in order for residents to remain as independent and active as possible. Hickory Grove provides nursing care and help with daily living activities when needed. Maple Grove Memory Care provides support for those with cognitive impairment. Maple Grove is comprised of two houses with ten studio apartments in each house. Maple Grove staff provides specialized care to those with cognitive impairments.

Memorial Hospital Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation and subsidiary of Memorial Hospital. The foundation's purpose is to support Memorial Hospital, Memorial Medical Clinics, Hancock Village, and the Hancock County region by raising privately donated money that supports local healthcare. Past projects include a driving simulator, which is utilized by the county schools, the Outdoor Fitness Park at Hartzell Lake, Memorial Hospital's 3-D Mammography Machine,

the Hancock Village bus, the Hidden in Plain Sight campaign, supporting the Hancock County Addiction Coalition initiatives for the community and the Together We Grow Endowment, which invests in the future of local healthcare. Each of these projects impacts the health and wellness of our community. **3613-52**

Memorial Hospital Foundation is proud to state that 100 percent of funds raised are returned to the projects at hand, or to the Together We Grow Endowment. Therefore, your donation can truly make a difference and impact the healthcare services available to the residents of our region. If you would like more information about the You Are My Sunshine campaign, the Lights of Joy Holiday Parade, or Memorial Hospital Foundation, please feel free to contact Executive Director Greta Wetzel at gwetzel@mhtlc.org or by calling 217-357-8502; or Director of Development for Memorial Hospital Foundation Jennifer Garner at jgarner@mhtlc.org or by calling 217-357-8568.

ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



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