

# AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

## THINGS HAPPENING IN PIKE COUNTY

### FISH FRY

Pike County Senior Citizens 220 W. Adams St Pittsfield

Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> fundraiser. Eat in or carry out.



Hull of a Race, which raises money for Parkinson's research will be Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hull, 11 Downtown Park. For more information on Hull of a Race visit our website at:

[www.hullofarace.com](http://www.hullofarace.com)

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### FARMERS MARKET

Pittsfield; Saturdays 7am to noon on the courthouse lawn

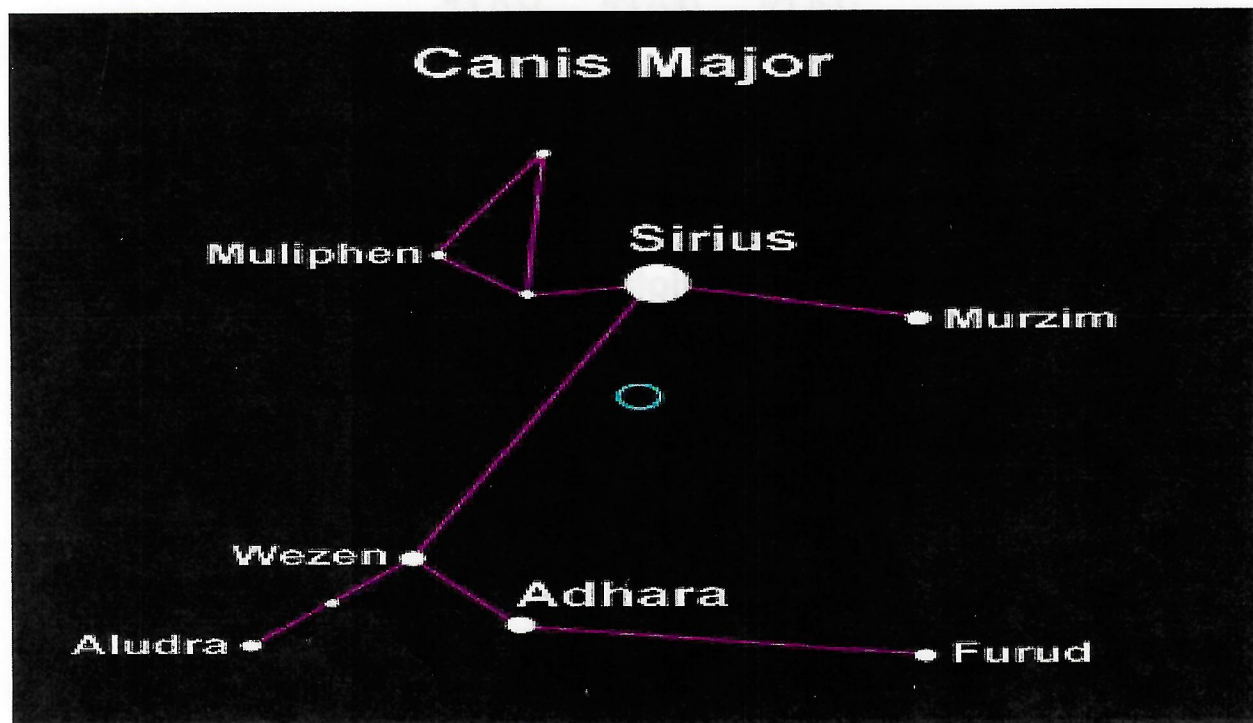
## Why Are They Called “The Dog Days Of Summer”?

July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup> are referred to as “The Dog Days Of Summer”. Where did the term come from? What does it have to do with dogs?

The phrase is actually a reference to the fact that, during this time, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation *Canis Major*, the *Greater Dog*. This is why Sirius is sometimes called the Dog Star.

In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> specifically. While this time is usually the hottest stretch of summer, the heat is not due to any added radiation from Sirius, regardless of its brightness. The heat of summer is simply a direct result of the Earth's tilt.

During summer in the Northern Hemisphere the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun's rays to hit at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days.



## **ANNUAL INSPECTION NOTICE**

Date: 7/30/2021

According to the scheduling terms of PCHA policy, please be advised that PCHA will conduct the annual inspection of its units in Griggsville & Baylis, beginning 8/23/2021 through 9/3/2021. No inspections will occur 8/28/2021 or 8/29/2021 due to those days falling on the weekend.

During this time, it is strongly recommended you make the premises ready to be viewed **before** the annual inspections begin. Negative inspection reports can affect your tenancy, so please consider this as you make your preparation.

While PCHA does not expect the units to be spotless, it does expect them to be free from noxious odors, debris, garbage, clutter, mounds of dirty dishes, dirty stoves, dirty refrigerators, etc. If you have pets, we do not expect to find urine and feces on the interior of the unit or significant damages caused by the animals. We also do not expect to find pet waste not being picked up in the yard. **All of these items are covered in your rental agreement with PCHA.**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this notice. We are looking forward to coming out this year to see you all!

Best Regards,



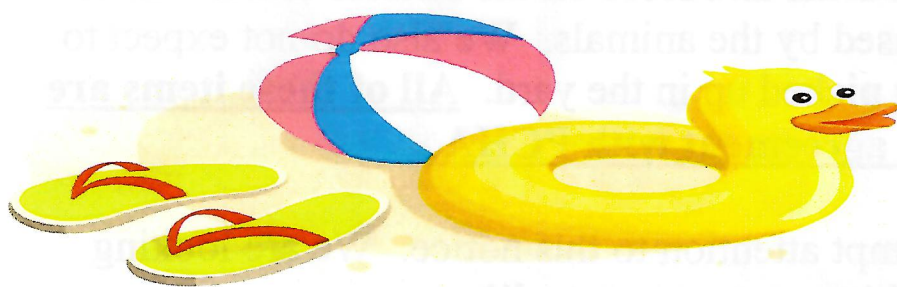
Chris Bruns  
Executive Director

# Annual Inspection Findings

As a whole, our inspections so far have been good. Some of the things that we are finding that are not allowed include; playground equipment (only sandboxes and refillable hard plastic pools are allowed), outside pet houses, outside fire pits, and smoking in the apartments. No smoking is allowed in the units including smoking marijuana.

If you have a violation(s), we will go over it with you and give you a certain amount of time to make the adjustment(s). Upon re-inspection of your unit, we do expect the previous violations to be corrected.

These annual inspections are put in practice to ensure the safety and upkeep of PCHA properties. We appreciate all the work that you put into your home.



Return coupon for a chance to win \$50.00 off your rent!!  
Account MUST be in good standing to win.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you to all who participate and congratulations to our monthly winners!!

**Pay rent by the  
last working day  
of the month and  
avoid paying a  
\$25.00 late fee**

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**Call our office and  
pay by phone with  
your credit or  
debit card. A  
\$3.00 processing  
fee will be  
charged**

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**Return any paper  
work back to our  
office signed,  
dated within 10  
days**

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Pike County Housing  
Authority

838 Mason St

PO Box 123 Barry, IL 62312

Phone 217-407-0707

Fax 217-407-0708

**New funding and flexible  
payment programs**



**for Ameren Illinois  
residential customers.**

## **Economic Hardship Recovery Program:**

Many Illinois families may be facing financial challenges as a result of COVID-19. We understand the hardships this pandemic has caused and want to help customers get back on track. Through our Economic Hardship Recovery Program, we are offering bill payment assistance and more flexible payment options for customers who are behind on their energy bills.

In alignment with the state's transition to Phase 4 of its Restore Illinois Plan, assessment of late payment fees have resumed in July and service disconnections will begin in September, but help is available. Please share this information with those in need in your community.



**COVID-19 Economic Hardship  
RECOVERY PROGRAM**

## Illinois Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)



The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**, offered through the State of Illinois, is a benefit that assists families with energy costs. Eligibility is based on household size and past 30-day household income and should be 200% of the federal poverty level or below. For details visit [HelpIllinoisFamilies.com](http://HelpIllinoisFamilies.com) or call 1.877.411.9276.

**NEW!**

## Ameren Illinois Fresh Start

*Financial assistance up to \$700*

### **LIHEAP CERTIFIED**

- Household income between 0% - 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Up to \$400 for electric customers and \$300 for natural gas customers can be applied to outstanding account balances
- Administered by Ameren Illinois. Customers should inquire by calling **1.800.755.5000**, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### **MODERATE INCOME**

- Household income between 200% - 350% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Up to \$200 for electric customers and \$150 for natural gas customers can be applied to outstanding balances
- Administered by the Energy Assistance Foundation. Agencies can be found at [WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org](http://WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org)

## Hardship Grants



*Financial assistance of \$200 per household for Ameren Illinois residential customers*

- For seniors and families who are experiencing financial hardship due to job loss, illness or disability
- Household income between 0% - 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Applies to Ameren Illinois residential electric customers
- Find an agency administering this program at [AmerenIllinois.com/Recovery](http://AmerenIllinois.com/Recovery)

## Warm Neighbors Cool Friends



*Financial assistance up to \$350*

- Provides year-round bill payment assistance to moderate income seniors and families
- Household income between 200% - 350% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Applies to both electric and natural gas customers
- Administered by the Energy Assistance Foundation. Agencies can be found at [WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org](http://WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org)

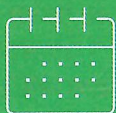
## Military Support Grants



*Financial assistance up to \$150*

- This grant is for qualifying active members of the military and disabled veterans
- Ameren Illinois electric residential customers
- Account must be listed in the name of the qualifying military or disabled veteran
- Address is the primary residence of the veteran
- One grant per household per calendar year
- Application form found at [AmerenIllinois.com/MilitarySupport](http://AmerenIllinois.com/MilitarySupport)

## Deferred Payment Agreements



Flexible payment arrangements are available for customers who have an outstanding balance after all applicable bill payment assistance has been applied to their accounts. The down payment requirement has been reduced and the time to retire a past due balance has been extended. These new flexible terms will be available through January 31, 2021.

- LIHEAP recipients and those indicating a financial hardship will not be required to make a down payment, and the remaining balance can be spread out in equal installments up to 24 months
- Otherwise, a 10% down payment will be required and monthly installments can be spread out up to 18 months



**COVID-19 Economic Hardship  
RECOVERY PROGRAM**

# EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

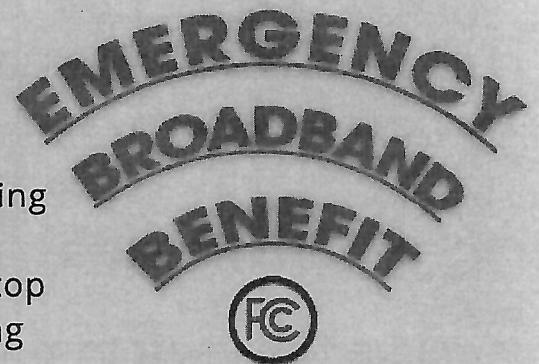
HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT  
DURING THE PANDEMIC

## What is it?

A temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

### The benefit provides:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

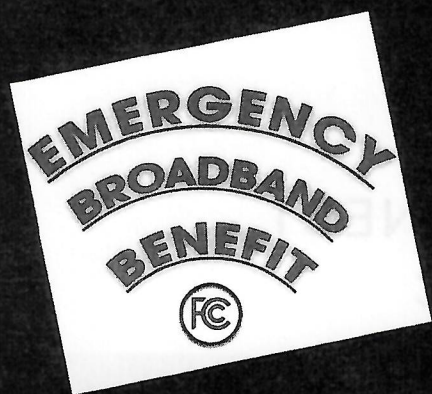


## Who is eligible?

### A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT



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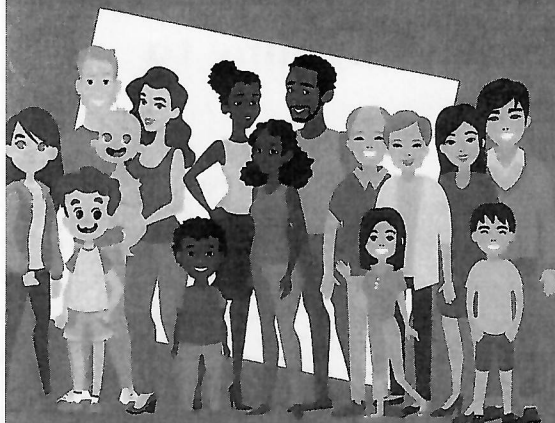
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- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.



## How do I apply?

There are three ways to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

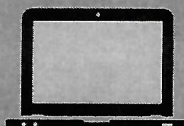
### 1 Contact your Preferred Participating Provider Directly

Ask your provider if they participate in the EBB, or use our online tool to find a participating company near you.



### 2 Online

Use the online application at  
**GetEmergencyBroadband.org**



### 3 By Mail

Print an application in English or Spanish. Complete the application and send it with proof of eligibility to:

**Emergency Broadband Support Center**  
P.O. Box 7081  
London, KY 40742



## **CAP FUND 2020**

Work is being planned for site improvements, including new signage and landscaping. We will also be replacing out of date water heaters with newer more energy efficient models.

## **LANDESS TERRACE MERGE**

The consolidating of units at the Landess Terrace complex will begin soon. We will be merging one bedroom apartments into much needed more accommodating units for families.

## **Freshen The Fridge!**

To eliminate stale refrigerator odors, cut an orange in half and scoop out the flesh (and eat it!). Fill the shell with baking soda and place it in a small bowl in the back of your fridge. The baking soda will absorb odors while the orange shell infuses the entire fridge with a clean, citrus scent.

## **ADVERTISING**

We are doing a major advertising push with radio and TV spots. By doing this we are hoping to fill vacancies, to avoid being forced into selling off certain properties.

**During normal business hours, YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE, so a work order can be prepared and the call can be documented.**

**If you are unable to reach someone in the office, leave a message.**

**For after hour/off hour emergencies only:**

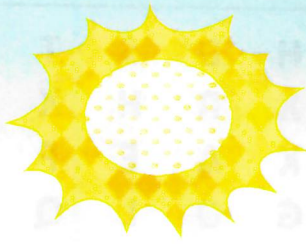
**Call 217-407-0707, hit option 1 to be connected with a member of maintenance.**

**Emergencies include (but not limited to); water leak, sewer line blockage, broken exterior door lock or broken window lock, smoke detector not working, furnace not working.**



Pike County Housing is currently looking for a resident commissioner to sit on the PCHA board. You will be asked to attend monthly board meetings (whether in person at our office in Barry, by Zoom, or by phone). If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please contact our office.

**217-407-0707**



If you have problems with pests prior to, or in between treatments, please call our office. We will contact BRPC for you. Make sure you leave your screen door unlocked for the technician to enter your home on your complexes scheduled day of treatment. If you need a copy of your pest control schedule, they are available on the PCHA website. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the office.

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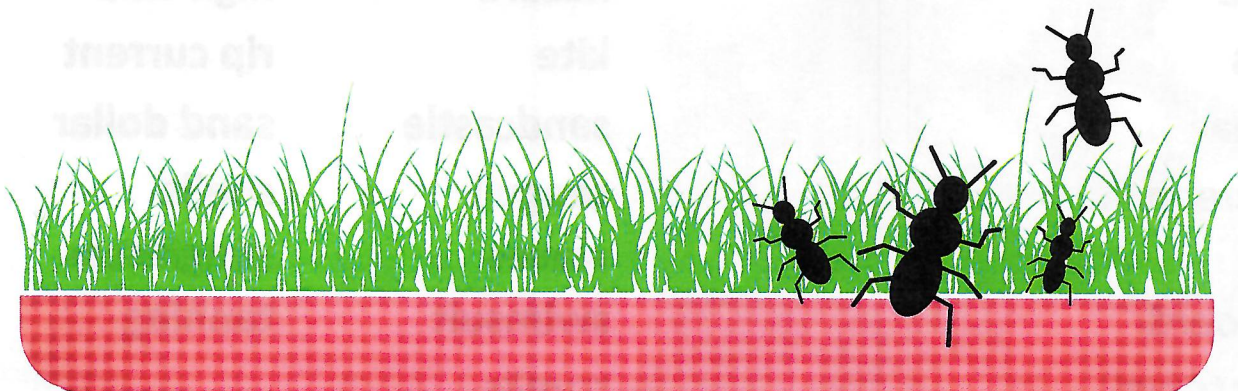
### SUMMER PICNIC TIPS

Picnics can take on many forms, such as friends and neighbors, tailgate parties, or ball games. One thing every picnic has is lots of good food.

The important point is to have safe and healthy food, not food that can cause food borne illness. Always prepare and store food properly.

As always, wash hands and work areas before preparing food. Have enough coolers with ice frozen gel packs in which to store the perishable foods like meat, poultry, fish, eggs and salads. You want to keep the food at 40 degrees F. Pack foods right from the refrigerator into the coolers.

Use separate cooler for drinks so the one containing the food won't constantly be opened and closed. Use the two hour rule. Don't leave perishable food un-refrigerated for more than two hours. Put perishable foods back in the cooler or refrigerator as soon as you finish eating.



# PUZZLE

# BEACH FUN

E	D	I	T	H	G	I	H	D	S	T	S	E	Z	C	E	Y	T
L	P	E	L	G	K	B	X	R	H	X	A	Z	X	L	Y	N	S
C	D	M	T	D	U	O	K	A	E	F	H	N	K	F	E	G	W
J	U	N	B	I	U	A	G	O	L	Q	J	R	N	R	C	V	R
T	O	W	E	L	K	R	Y	B	L	P	O	S	R	I	G	R	Q
I	N	I	K	I	B	D	P	F	S	N	W	U	C	L	N	K	B
U	M	E	S	B	H	W	H	R	S	I	C	X	P	T	N	G	Y
J	U	R	E	X	X	A	E	U	M	P	S	H	R	M	O	V	D
O	E	B	A	B	S	L	Y	S	I	H	A	Z	A	R	D	O	S
E	R	T	F	B	S	K	U	R	T	S	A	O	C	I	O	L	E
S	V	Q	T	H	D	I	N	Y	Y	X	S	R	W	W	R	L	S
K	T	Q	O	I	T	N	R	U	J	E	A	V	T	Y	B	U	S
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Q	E	N	F	G	U	S	R	S	A	T	I	S	E	W	Y	A	L
B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L	Y	R	G	E	G	X	Z	E	G
P	V	O	W	O	O	J	D	T	D	H	R	V	Z	A	O	S	N
E	L	T	S	A	C	D	N	A	S	C	J	A	W	U	U	W	U
R	A	L	L	O	D	D	N	A	S	B	I	W	I	F	S	C	S

beach ball

beach chair

frisbee

jetties

sandbar

sun screen

shore

surf board

beach towel

bikini

coast

hazard

kite

sandcastle

seagull

waves

swimsuit

trunks

boardwalk

driftwood

high tide

rip current

sand dollar

shells

sunglasses

tanning