

## Contact Information

Blackhawk Hills  
Regional Council  
815-625-3854

[info@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:info@blackhawkhills.com)

102 East Route 30,  
Suite 3  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

## Upcoming Events

### Office Closure

May 27, 2013

Memorial Day

### County Board Chairs Meeting

May 28, 2013

1:00 PM

Carroll County Farm  
Bureau

811 South Clay Street  
Mount Carroll, IL 61053

### Regional CEDS Steering Committee Meeting

May 30, 2013

Milledgeville State Bank  
451 North Main Avenue  
Milledgeville, IL 61051

### Grants Administrators Conference

June 4 and 5, 2013

Northfield Conference  
Center

3280 Northfield Drive  
Springfield, IL 62702

### Zoning Administrators Meeting

June 5, 2013

Ogle County Planning  
and Zoning Department  
911 West Pines Road  
Oregon, IL 61061

### Illinois Leadership Conference

June 6, 2013

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Decatur Conference  
Center

4191 U.S. 36  
Decatur, IL 62521

# BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council



Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

Thank you for your interest in Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. You are receiving this newsletter because we would like to keep you up-to-date on projects and initiatives in the 6-county Blackhawk Hills region. We serve Carroll, Lee, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties in northwestern Illinois.

If you have a project that you would like our assistance with, please contact our office at 815-625-3854 or submit a [Project Proposal Form](#) on our website.

If you have news or upcoming events that you would like us to share in our newsletter, on Facebook, or our website, please contact Melanie Flesch at 815-625-3854 or by email at [melanie.flesch@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:melanie.flesch@blackhawkhills.com).

## Like Us on Facebook

Be sure to "Like" Blackhawk Hills Regional Council on Facebook to receive timely information regarding available funding opportunities, upcoming events and meetings, and much more!

Like us on Facebook 

## iFiber Update - Service Provider Information




iFiber has recently released information regarding Internet Service Provider (ISP) partners that will be available to community anchor institutions on the iFiber broadband network. Each ISP provides varying services including, but not limited to, Internet, voice over IP, server hosting, and remote storage. To view a full list of ISPs, please click [here](#).

For more information about the project, please contact Daniel Payette at 815-625-3854 or by email at [daniel.payette@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:daniel.payette@blackhawkhills.com).

## Quick Links

[Visit Our Website](#)

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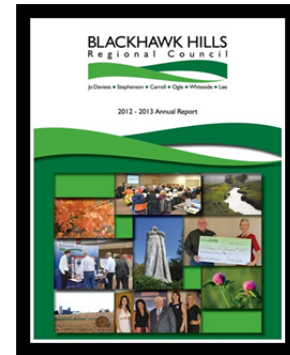
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## Annual Report Now Available

The 2012-2013 Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Annual Report is now available! You can view this document by visiting the Archives page of our website. To do so, please click [here](#).

Staff of Blackhawk Hills Regional Council will once again present the report to the county boards, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other stakeholders within our region in the coming months.

If you would like Blackhawk Hills Regional Council to present to your organization or would like to request a hardcopy of the report, please contact Melanie Flesch at 815-625-3854 or by email at [melanie.flesch@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:melanie.flesch@blackhawkhills.com).



## Regional CEDS Five Year Plan

As an Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated Economic Development District (EDD), Blackhawk Hills Regional Council is required to write and maintain the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the six-county region of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside. The CEDS should represent all of the counties and the entities within.

CEDS is a plan that emerges from a broad-based continuous planning process addressing the economic opportunities and constraints of a region. A CEDS should promote economic development and opportunity, foster effective transportation access, plan for regional disaster resiliency, enhance and protect the environment, and balance resources through sound management development practices.

An acceptable CEDS is typically a prerequisite to be eligible to receive funds under most EDA programs. A CEDS is required to qualify for assistance under its public works, economic adjustment, and most planning programs. EDA uses this document as a means to identify potential projects in our region, so it is in the best interest of those located within the six-counties to highlight your needs so they can be included.

The CEDS Plan is completely reconstructed every five years and updated annually. Blackhawk Hills Regional Council's Five Year CEDS Plan is due by May of 2014. As this process moves forward, staff will be actively seeking input from the leaders in the region to reassess the needs and constraints that impact our economic and community development. There will be a number of in-input sessions and roundtable meetings scheduled throughout the region to help gather the vital information for our state and federal funding agencies. You may be called upon to participate in some of the information gathering activities and it is our hope that you will contribute to the discussions.

For more information, please contact Theresa Wittenauer at 815-625-3854 or by email at [theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com).

## Grant Deadline Reminder

Visit [www.blackhawkhills.com/grants](http://www.blackhawkhills.com/grants) for more information on these and other available funding opportunities.

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Weed Control) - May 17, 2013
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation - May 23, 2013
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Roadmaps to Health - May 23, 2013

## New Funding Opportunities Available

For more information on these and other funding opportunities, please visit [www.blackhawkhills.com/grants](http://www.blackhawkhills.com/grants) or contact our office at 815-625-3854.

### **Bikes Belong Coalition - Community Partnership Grants**

The Bikes Belong Coalition is dedicated to encouraging bicycle usage and expanding bicycling opportunities. The Coalition is currently accepting applications for community partnership grants. A partnership consists of at least one local government, a non-profit organization with a mission to support bicycling recreation, and a local business. The goal of the program is to foster partnerships between these entities to improve a community's bicycling environment. Grants may be used for the development or expansion of bicycling facilities including paths, trails, and bike lanes. Grants may also be used for advocacy projects that promote bicycling. Applicants may apply for up to \$10,000, but proposals that request funding for 50% or more of the project will not be considered. The program awards \$180,000 yearly and funds approximately 15-20% of the proposals it receives. Application deadline is May 24, 2013.

### **Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program**

The Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD) is a state-financed grant program that provides reimbursement of up to 50% to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Communities that apply and are approved for a project must be able to finance the entire cost of the project and provide receipts prior to grant reimbursement. The OSLAD Program is financed by a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. Grant awards of up to \$750,000 are available for acquisition projects, while development/renovation projects are limited to a \$400,000 grant maximum. Examples of projects available by visiting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website. Application deadline is July 1, 2013.

### **Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership**

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets. Application deadline is June 13, 2013.

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## Theresa Wittenauer Appointed to QCREDA by Governor Pat Quinn



Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Coordinator for Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCREDA). QCREDA was created by action of the Illinois General Assembly in 1987 and serves Henry, Knox, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties. QCREDA also serves Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties within the Blackhawk Hills region. Six positions of the eleven member board are appointed directly by the Governor of Illinois with the consent of the Illinois Senate.

QCREDA is a general development agency whose financial and supportive powers enable it, with written approval of the Governor of Illinois, to issue taxable bonds, tax-exempt bonds, issue moral obligation bonds, and/or issue notes or other evidences of indebtedness for the purpose of developing, constructing, acquiring, or improving properties or facilities for business entities locating in or expanding within QCREDA'S territory.

For more information, please contact Theresa Wittenauer at 815-625-3854 or by email at [theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com).

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## Blackhawk Hills Regional Council's Annual Meeting Recap

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council held its annual meeting on May 15, 2013, at Basil Tree Ristorante in Dixon, IL. The meeting was open to the public and over 50 guests from various local governments and organizations attended. Announcement of officers also took place with Ron Colson as President, William Tonne as Vice President, and Glen Kuhlemier as Secretary/Treasurer.



Josh Albrecht, Executive Director of Dixon Main Street, was the keynote speaker. Dixon Main Street's (DMS) emphasis is on preserving and promoting the downtown core of the community, while sending ripples of progress throughout the entire city. Last August, DMS brought Mumford & Sons to perform for a two-day festival that brought more than 20,000 people to downtown Dixon. The event hosted visitors from all over the world thanks to the more than 700 local volunteers who helped with the event.

Also at the meeting, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council presented two awards:

- The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to the Savanna Historical Society for its work on the Savanna Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.
- The Carson DeJarnatt Economic Development Award was presented to Jason Anderson, Economic Development Director of the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDCO).



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## Goodbye to Long-Serving Council Member, Welcome to New

The staff and fellow council members of Blackhawk Hills would like to thank Cathy Brunner, Area Representative for Carroll County, for her dedicated service. Cathy joined the council in November 2001 and served until April 30, 2013.

Blackhawk Hills would also like to welcome Cathy's successor, John Huggins, as the new Area Representative for Carroll County.