

Contact Information

Blackhawk Hills
Regional Council
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102 East Route 30,
Suite 3
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Upcoming Events

[Click event title for more information.](#)

Office Closed

July 3, 2015

Independence Day
Observed

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Meeting

July 27, 2015

6:00 PM

Lanark Heritage Center
106 South Broad Street
Lanark, IL 61046

County Board Chairs Meeting

July 28, 2015

1:00 PM


Carroll County
Courthouse

301 North Main
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

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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 six-county region of Blackhawk Hills. We serve Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, 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 us at 815-625-3854 or by email at info@blackhawkhills.com.

Blackhawk Hills Receives Planning Grant



The U. S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded \$51,628 in Economic Development District Planning funding to Blackhawk Hills Regional Council to support our economic development planning program. Blackhawk Hills has applied for and received the annual planning grant from EDA since 1992.

This funding will support the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in the region. The CEDS process is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic development roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy.

If you have questions about the planning grant, please contact our office at 815-625-3854 or info@blackhawkhills.com.

Plum River Clean-up



Steel barrel and other debris stuck in tree in Plum River near Savanna, IL.

At its last board meeting, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council agreed to help the Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) plan a clean-up of the Plum River to improve accessibility to boat traffic and to beautify the river. The project will open ten miles of the Plum River to paddle sport enthusiasts and fishermen. Long-range goals include creating a water trail on the Plum River with several access, while improving aesthetic quality, alleviating some flooding, preserving fishery habitat, and improving timber along the river.

An AmeriCorps team, contractors, landowners, and the SWCD personnel will work the last week in July to remove logjams and perform timber stand improvement in preparation of a volunteer community clean-up on August 7, 2015 with a rain date scheduled for August 14, 2015.

How you can help and what is needed:

- Volunteer - The District needs volunteers for the August 7 (August 14 rain date) clean-up. One group of volunteers will sort and load garbage and recycling. The other group will paddle the river collecting trash.
- Donate - The District will need cash donations to help pay for logjam removal.
- Equipment - The District will need canoes for volunteers to use on July 29-31 and August 7 (August 14 rain date). It will also need heavy equipment for pulling large logs from the river.
- Experience - The District needs experienced paddlers, as well as individuals able to manage logistics and oversee safety for other volunteers. Skilled operators are also needed for operating heavy equipment.

For more information or to get involved, please contact the Carroll County SWCD at 815-244-8732 ext. 3 or carrollcoswcd@gmail.com.

FOIA and Social Media: Guidance for Illinois Government Agencies



"Social media posts are considered public records if: posts are made on an official public agency account or on a private account that is being used to distribute information for that agency to the public." - excerpted from "Government Records Law and Social Media," May 2015

The Illinois State Archives has just released a new guidance document, "[Government Records Law and Social Media](#)." This brief guide answers some commonly asked questions about the use of social media by government agencies, including record status, retention, and FOIA concerns. Check out the Illinois State Archives' [records management page](#) for all available resources and forms.

Funding Deadline Reminder

Visit www.blackhawkhills.com/grants or contact our office for more information on these and other funding opportunities.

[National PTA Healthy Lifestyles: Energy Balance 101 Grant Program](#) - June 19, 2015

[Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation](#) - July 14, 2015

Funding Opportunities

Visit blackhawkhills.com/grants or contact our office for more information on these and other funding opportunities.

[Planning Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#) - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2016 Planning Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. The purpose of this program is to support states to certify clinics as certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs), establish prospective payment systems for Medicaid reimbursable services, and prepare an application to participate in a two year demonstration program. Populations to be served are adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, and those with long term and serious substance use disorders, as well as others with mental illness and substance use disorders. The application deadline is August 5, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

[Union Pacific Community-Based Grant Program](#) - The Union Pacific Foundation awards grants through an annual application process through which nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in Union Pacific communities may apply. The Foundation will be particularly receptive to proposals that fall within the following categories:

- **Community and Civic:** To assist community-based organizations and related activities that improve and enrich the general quality of life in the community. This category includes organizations such as aquariums, botanical gardens, children's museums, history/science museums, public libraries, public television and radio, zoos, etc.
- **Health and Human Services:** To assist organizations dedicated to improving the level of health care and providing human services in the community. Local affiliates of national health organizations may apply for local programs only, but not for general operating support.

The application deadline is August 15, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

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