



## 2017 Fall Summit

# Busy Livin' or Busy Dyin'

October 27, 2017, Timber Lake Playhouse, 8215 Black Oak Rd, Mt. Carroll, IL

## FALL SUMMIT SCHEDULE

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8:30 a.m. | Summit Registration

9:00 a.m. | Welcome

9:15 a.m. | Over 500 Things to Say: an Assessment of Illinois Business

- Ed Sitar, ComEd (45 min)

Session #1: Ed Sitar from ComEd will provide a brief overview of the State of Illinois's Creating Opportunity for Retention and Expansion (CORE) program, as well as an update on where the program stands today. Additionally, he will illustrate the data collected from over 500 Synchronist interviews of Illinois businesses, large and small.

10:00 a.m. | Grain, Gears, and Gravel: the Freight that Moves Northwest Illinois

- James Durako, Illinois Department of Transportation (15 min)
- Erika Witzke, CPCS Transcom (45 min)

Session #2: IDOT's Jim Durako will highlight his agency's work on the Illinois Freight Plan. Erika Witzke, principal consultant at CPCS Transcom, will speak on the ongoing 8-County Freight Study that includes several counties in northwest Illinois and eastern Iowa. Her presentation will highlight the bi-state region's freight and multi-modal transportation assets, types of commodity flows, and initial thoughts on regional needs going forward.

11:00 a.m. | Break & Networking

11:15 a.m. | Up or Out: the True Value of Entrepreneurship to the Local Economy

- Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin-Madison (45 min)

Session #3: UW-Madison professor Tessa Conroy will discuss her research on entrepreneurship. The presentation will address the place of entrepreneurs in the local economic ecosystem and cover what northwest Illinois can do to create an environment that engenders and supports entrepreneurship.

12:00 p.m. | Lunch

12:15 p.m. | Harnessing Economic Assets: Economic Development for the 21st Century

- Geoff Schomacker, Ball State University (1 hour)

Session #4: Geoff Schomacker from the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University will talk about 21st Century economic development strategy and offer some insights about the northwest Illinois economy.

1:15 p.m. | Conclusion

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Edward Sitar**  
ComEd  
630.437.2571  
edward.sitar@comed.com



**David Ross**  
Illinois Department of  
Commerce and Economic  
Opportunity  
217.785.2708  
david.ross@illinois.gov  
(CORE contact)



**Erika Witzke**  
CPCS Transcom  
614.537.5814  
ewitzke@cpstrans.com



**James Durako**  
Illinois Department of  
Transportation  
217.785.2353  
james.durako@illinois.gov



**Tessa Conroy**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
608.265.4327  
tessa.conroy@wisc.edu



**Geoff Schomacker**  
Ball State University  
765.285.4111  
gbschomacker@bsu.edu



309 1st Ave  
Rock Falls, IL 61071  
815.625.3854

daniel.payette@blackhawkhills.com  
andrew.shaw@blackhawkhills.com  
julie.jacobs@blackhawkhills.com  
www.blackhawkhills.com

## VENUE

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### Timber Lake Playhouse

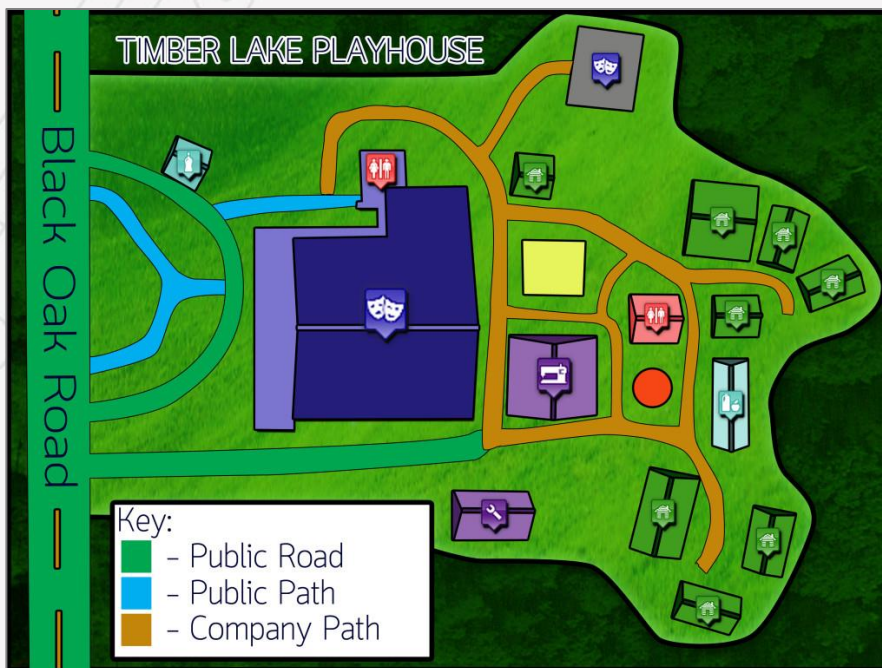
In 1961, Timber Lake Playhouse was established as a professional, non-profit summer theatre company. The mission of Timber Lake Playhouse is to provide the best expression of theater arts to the regional community by presenting creative works that entertain and inspire. Further details available at [www.timberlakeplayhouse.org](http://www.timberlakeplayhouse.org).

### Address

8215 Black Oak Road, Mt. Carroll, IL

### Parking

Parking available in the west lot (not pictured) adjacent to Black Oak Road or parallel along Black Oak Road.



### Directions

From Highway 78, take Timber Lake Road east to Black Oak Road north

From Highway 40 east from Mt. Carroll, take Black Oak Road south

From Highway 40 west from Chadwick, take Timber Lake Road west to Black Oak Road north

## PRE-SUMMIT SCHEDULE

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7:15 - 8:45 a.m. | Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Meeting

A gathering of the 6-County CEDS Committee. The committee will begin work on the 2019 CEDS update.