Celebrating Syttende Mai in Stoughton

“La oss feire” or “Let’s celebrate!” May 18-20 marked the 2018 Syttende Mai Festival, a weekend-long celebration of Norwegian heritage. We’ve been a part of this annual festival for many years and several of our employees are proud of their Norwegian heritage, so we are also proud to help celebrate. Sherri Stumpf, our CEO, spoke at the opening ceremony about how honored we are to be a part of the Stoughton community and to be a sponsor of this year’s Syttende Mai Festival.

Blackhawk volunteers were everywhere, helping people enjoy the food, laughter, and exciting spectacles. We hosted a booth all three days and handed out piggy coin purses while encouraging people to save. We gave out piggy water bottles to racers, had a banner at the art show, and even handed out candy during the Sunday parade while walking alongside our giant piggy bank float.

We want to give a special thank you to everyone who visited us and helped make the Syttende Mai Festival such a memorable experience. Community is so important to Blackhawk, and we are so happy to have enjoyed another Syttende Mai Festival with you this year.
Summer Calendar of Events

July 4       Closed for Independence Day
July 4       Milton Parade
July 20-22   Tobacco Heritage Days – Edgerton
July 24-29   Rock County 4-H Fair
August 7     Janesville Police Department National Night Out
August 10    YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
August 11    Tallman House Arts & Crafts Festival
August 18    Stoughton Coffee Break Festival
August 18    Janesville Noon Rotary Corn Roast
August 19    Milton Chicken BBQ
August 19    Riverside Park Music Festival & Janesville Noon Lions Club Chicken Roast
August 25    Westgate Corridor Block Party
August 26    26th Annual Bert Blain Memorial Heart Walk
September 1-3 Labor Fest
September 3  Closed for Labor Day
September 7-8 Chilimania – Edgerton
September 8-9 SCWBA Parade of Homes & 14-16
September 15 Edgerton Hospital’s 8th Annual Victory Run-Walk
September 19 United Way Day of Caring
September 21 Rock County Senior Fair
September 29 Member Appreciation Picnic

On May 8th, Blackhawk hosted Milton’s “Business After Five” at our Milton branch. This fun event was filled with live music by Angelic Harps, delicious food by Milwaukee Grill and Piggly Wiggly, and a 50/50 raffle. The raffle money helped benefit the Milton Area Youth Center, a positive, safe, after school program for youth in grades 6-9 in the Milton School District. The Milton Area Youth Center provides a free daily meal, and fun, productive activities. All of their services are free. Blackhawk truly enjoyed hosting an event that is so beneficial to the community.

Everyone wins with the Community Coupon Book – you get valuable savings, and our community businesses get valuable support! Stop by any Blackhawk branch to pick up the eighth annual coupon book, which features 88 area member businesses. Thanks for giving back to the community by shopping local!
Our 53rd Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, April 29, at the Holiday Inn Express and Conference Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, with over 350 people present.

Our Board of Directors and CEO Sherri Stumpf, reported on the strong financial health of the credit union. And, we reviewed the credit union’s progress in 2017, including our commitment to increasing convenience. Last year we opened new branches on the south side of Janesville, in Edgerton and in Kenosha. We also merged with Kenosha City Employees Credit Union and County Credit Union.

Additionally, our newly designed programs like Next Step and small dollar lending are making a difference in our members’ lives. These lending programs act as a bridge to allow people to escape predatory lending practices and make a path forward.

Earlier this year, we announced our plans for creating a Legacy Center to pay respect to our members, who have dedicated their careers to Fisher Body and General Motors. We’ve been making progress on the center and will keep you posted as it continues.

Thanks to all of you who joined us to share in Blackhawk’s 2017 highlights and enjoyed a delicious brunch and a door prize!

Lonestar Concert Ticket Winners!

Congratulations to Ruthetta Kovar and Karla LaGrange, our winners for the Lonestar concert tickets! At the annual meeting, we gave away tickets to two lucky winners who shared why they would love to see Lonestar perform live. We hope their dreams came true and they had a night to remember as they experienced the music of Lonestar at the Janesville Performing Arts Center.
Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners!

We’re proud to help support the future of our local students. This year’s applicants were asked to write an essay answering the questions, “What experiences have influenced your decision to pursue a career in your chosen field? How will these experiences and this scholarship help you achieve success in your career choice?” We received many applications and want to congratulate this year’s Blackhawk scholarship recipients:

**Glenn Lea Presidential Award**  
Grace Rodenberg  
**L. Patrick McGuire Presidential Award**  
Madeline Nelson  
**Scholarship of Excellence**  
Olivia Heilmann  
Bridget Paur  
Mirnaly Veguilla  
Hope Miland  
Blake Fuchs  
Brittany Janes  
Karsyn Kobs  
Kade Bohlman  
Alexis Fenrick  
Carla Zuniga  
Kyler Kobs  

Please watch for next school year’s scholarship program in an upcoming issue of The Messenger and at www.bhccu.org.

IT’S A GREAT NIGHT FOR A WATER SKI SHOW!

Janesville is honored to be the home of the most successful water ski show team in the world with over 60 total tournament victories, including 19 U.S. National Championships. Blackhawk is proud to support Janesville’s award-winning Rock Aqua Jays with their efforts to raise money for new bleachers. The new bleachers will be much safer and increase capacity from about 3,800 spectators to 5,000. The Rock Aqua Jays have performances Wednesdays and Sundays through the summer starting May 27 and are held at Traxler Park in Janesville.

Come out and enjoy the show at the leading entertainment and tourist attraction in our community.

JOIN US!

**ICE cream social**

FOR AN  
EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
7180 75TH ST.  
KENOSHA, WI 53142  
11 AM – 2 PM

ICE cream social  
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RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY GRADUATES AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Blackhawk believes in the personal and professional growth of its employees and the impact that makes on our membership. The Leadership Development Academy of Rock County’s mission is to inspire leaders to build and strengthen our community. Because of our like-minded commitment to our community, each year we select some of our finest to participate in this meaningful program.

The Leadership Development Academy begins each September with a two-day retreat and continues with one full-day session per month from October through May. Participants engage in developing self-awareness, communication, community and team-building skills during this time. We couldn’t be prouder of Jacquie Fox, Nancy Mandell and Colleen Curtis-Trappe, our employees who graduated from the program this May. They all worked hard on their capstone group projects, each one striving to make the world a little better place.

The following is a summary of each of our graduates’ projects:

**Group Literacy**

Colleen’s group, Team Mosaic, created a project that rallied multiple service agencies together by developing a bilingual book that fit with the organizations’ missions. The team’s book, “All Because You Read With Me,” focuses on early childhood literacy and the importance of reading to children from 0-5 years old. The book will be distributed through Family Services, local libraries, little libraries and other agencies.

**Nothing but Nets**

Jacquie’s group, Team Business as Unusual, paired up with Project 16:49, which recently acquired a house that will provide homeless young men between the ages of 18-21 housing and the essential daily needs to finish high school and become a contributing member of the community. The team decided to build a half-size basketball court for these young men.

This will provide the opportunity for those in the program to build relationships, exercise and have some fun. Due to consistently inclement weather, the court has not been put in yet. Two benches were built and will go alongside the court and recognition plaques will be attached to commemorate all those who made contributions to this project and to remind these young men that there are people who care.

**Kicks for 608 Kids**

Kicks for 608 Kids has taken the initiative to provide children in the Janesville/Beloit area a brand-new pair of shoes that couldn’t otherwise afford them. Through collaboration, Nancy’s group was able to strategize by focusing on one school at a time. New shoes boost confidence, helping kids grow athletically and academically. The project experienced great community support through planned fundraisers and the use of social media. It has been a great journey, not only providing children the necessary shoes, but also creating community awareness of the importance that shoes make in a young person’s life.
Thank You

We’d like to recognize Blackhawk members Courtney Herndon and Carla Nelson, who provided the beautiful summer photos featured in our front-page header. Thanks, Courtney and Carla, for sharing your talents with us!

WANT TO BE TOP DOG?

It’s that time of year again. Blackhawk is offering you the chance to have your pictures featured in our 2019 calendar. Yes, we’re letting the cat out of the bag – to enter our calendar contest, snap a creative or silly picture of some furry or feathery friends. Then email your entry (with information about who or what’s in the photo) to us at: photos@bhccu.org by October 1, 2018.*

Cover photo prize: $100 gift card
Other photo prizes: $50 gift card

Hold your horses! This year, in addition to awards for your winning photos, we will donate an additional $50 (or $100 for cover photos) in your name to Friends of Noah, a non-profit dog and cat rescue organization.

*Photo submissions become property of BHCCU.