

# THE BLAZE

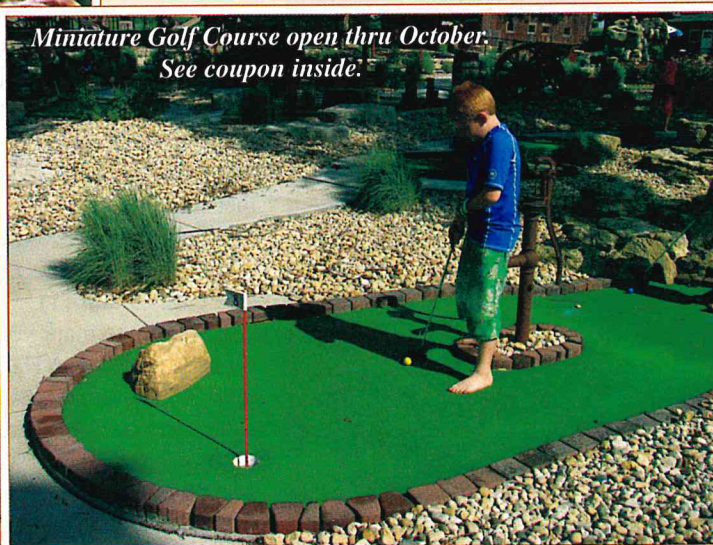
A publication of the Byron Forest Preserve District

2006 Fall/Winter Issue

## Fun for all!



*Miniature Golf Course open thru October.  
See coupon inside.*



Inside this issue...

- Halloween on the Prairie
- Pumpkins for Sale
- Annual Holiday Craft Show
- Visit Santa & Build a Gingerbread House
- Great Gift Ideas!
- Book Your Holiday Parties Now!
- Byron Community Revitalization Newsletter



# Director's Message

## Thank You Sponsors...



**Byron Bank**

**Exelon<sup>SM</sup>**

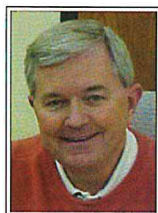
**Nuclear**

**Byron Generating Station**

**Dr. Bob & Holly Johnson  
Matt Johnson  
Scholarship Fund**

**Stephen J. Nardi  
Land Donation**

*From Executive Director Edward C. Clift...*



Dear Citizens,

Our staff has some great activities for you and your family this fall season. Be sure to register early for your favorite programs!

The mini-golf fundraiser that was held in June for the Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund was outstanding, raising \$3,327 for scholarships for Byron youth. In this issue, there are more details about this program. The contributors to this scholarship fund are listed on the next page. We want to publicly thank everyone for supporting such a wonderful program. With your support, many children are able to enjoy some great recreational experiences.

We are offering a Friends of the Preserve Membership Program. This program provides individuals and families the opportunity to be even more supportive of District programs offered at the Jarrett Prairie Center. See page 5 for more details.

Come on out to see the beautiful prairie flowers, especially the yellow coneflowers and compass plant (see page 6). You can take a walk along one of our trails or drive along the main road or the observation road in the middle of the prairie to get a closer look at the beauty that surrounds you.

Stone Quarry Recreation Park is open all year round for family fun! Fall and winter hours are listed in this issue. There are many programs offered at Stone Quarry for all ages (see pages 9 and 11).

Be sure to mark your calendars for our holiday events (see pages 7 & 8). In October, we have the popular Halloween on the Prairie, Family Pumpkin Carving, and pumpkins for sale. In November, our Annual Craft Show will include some new features this year. Children can have a free breakfast with Santa and register to win the World's Largest Christmas Stocking. We'll also have door prizes and make-and-take crafts at some of the vendor booths. In December, Santa will make an appearance at Stone Quarry Park. Children can visit with him while they build their very own gingerbread house. You don't want to miss any of these great activities!

If you have an idea for a program, please let us know. If you need any additional information or to clarify any items, please call me anytime at 815-234-8535 ext. 201. Have a great fall and we'll see you at the Forest Preserve!

*Ed Clift*

Edward C. Clift  
Executive Director

## Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road, Byron • 815-234-8900 • [www.stonequarrypark.com](http://www.stonequarrypark.com)

**\$1 Off Skate Park or Mini-Golf**

Not valid with any other offer. Expires October 30, 2006.



# Thank You

## *Thank you...* to the contributors to the Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund!

Gene & Shirley Smith  
Robert & Patricia Huls  
Berkeley Electric  
Ken & Dana Norup  
Dan & Nancy Etnyre  
Rick & Jody Meyer  
Mt. Morris Savings and Loan  
Steve Patterson  
Byron Bank  
George Wrasse  
Tom & Susan Freise  
Rick R. Bushnell, M.D.  
Dr. Paul Paulsen  
Ed & Liz Stirling  
Mike & Lavonne Eytalis  
Ogle County Physical Therapy  
Fifth Alarm Firehouse Pub  
Swedish American Hospital  
Byron Museum District  
Ron & Kim Boyer  
Oregon Rotary Club  
Doug & Lynn Knodle

Rich & Sharon Pleniewicz  
Lowell & Suzanne Bunker  
John & Joyce Hunsaker  
Dr. Bob & Holly Johnson  
Les & Darlene Cadmus  
Michelle Lipps  
Dave & Nancy Klink  
Rev. William & Beverly Nelson  
Howard & Judy Anderson  
Art & Elaine Breck  
Chet Kobel  
Peter & Mary Verdun  
Dave & Lois Flowers  
Jerry & Judy Jewell  
Brad & Meredith Townsend  
Ed & Beth Clift  
Dan & Lisa O'Connor  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
Jay & Meg Franklin  
Brad & Cindy Adams  
Jeff & Cathy Huber  
Katie Larsen



# General Information

## Jarrett Prairie Center Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8am-4:30pm  
 Tues. & Thurs. 8am-8pm  
 Saturday 9am-4pm  
 Sunday 1-4pm

## Jarrett Prairie Center is closed:

Labor Day, September 4  
 Thanksgiving, November 23 & 24  
 Christmas, December 24 & 25  
 New Year's, December 31 & January 1

## Jarrett Prairie Center Hours

during Christmas break...  
 December 26-29, 2006  
 If there is less than 4" of snow,  
 Monday-Friday - 9am-Noon  
 If there is 4" of snow or more,  
 Monday-Friday - Noon - 8 pm.

## Administrative Offices are closed:

Labor Day, September 4  
 Columbus Day, October 9  
 Veteran's Day, November 10  
 Thanksgiving, November 23 & 24  
 Christmas, December 25  
 New Year's, January 1

## Inside This Issue...

<b>Memberships .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Prairie .....</b>	<b>6 &amp; 23</b>
<b>Fall Fun .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Christmas Fun .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Special Events .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Volunteers, Etc. ....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dances, Etc. ....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Outdoor Adventures ...</b>	<b>12-14</b>
<b>Concerts .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Preschool .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Classes &amp; Clubs .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Facilities .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PrairieView Golf Club .</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Calendar of Events ....</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>Scholarships .....</b>	<b>23</b>

**Byron Forest Preserve District**  
**7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010**  
**815-234-8535 • byronforestpreserve.com**

## Board Meetings

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron.

## Board of Commissioners

Dave Flowers ..... President  
 Ed Stirling ..... Vice President  
 Jeff Huber ..... Secretary  
 Jeff Ludwig ..... Treasurer  
 Sandy Brooks ..... Commissioner

## Who To Contact

*General inquiries*  
**815-234-8535 ext. 200**  
**info@byronforestpreserve.com**

## Administrative Staff

Edward Clift, Executive Director  
 edclift@byronforestpreserve.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 201

Todd Tucker, Deputy Director &  
 Restoration Superintendent  
 todd@byronforestpreserve.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 222

Richie Wolf, Education Supt.  
 richie@byronforestpreserve.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 217

Shonnah Flaharty, Manager  
 Stone Quarry Recreation Park  
 shonnah@stonequarrypark.com  
 815-234-8900

Steve Murray, Manager  
 PrairieView Golf Club  
 pvgolfpro@hotmail.com  
 815-234-4653 ext. 12

Robin Davis, Finance & Human  
 Resources Superintendent  
 robin@byronforestpreserve.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 204

Steve Storz, Maintenance Supt.  
 PrairieView Golf Club  
 stevestorz1@hotmail.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 208

Michelle Lipps  
 Blaze Editor, Design, & Layout  
 michelle@byronforestpreserve.com  
 815-234-8535 ext. 224

## Other important phone numbers:

Program Registration/Information  
 234-8535 ext. 200  
 Facility Rentals/Banquet/Meeting  
 Rooms 234-8535 ext. 200  
 Weiskopf Observatory  
 234-8535 ext. 216



# Our Mission



**BYRON  
FOREST  
PRESERVE  
DISTRICT**

## Mission Statement

*Preservation ~ Education ~ Recreation*

The mission of the Byron Forest Preserve District is to provide for Preservation of Open Space/Natural Resources, provide Education concerning our Natural Environment/Heritage, provide Recreational Opportunities and Enterprise Operations that are consistent with our Agency goals.

## New Memberships and "Members Only" Programs

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners recently approved a new program as proposed by our Education Department. This program offers memberships to the public. The membership discounts only apply to programs that depart from or are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Memberships are renewable each year. For more information, please call 234-8535 ext. 217.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Yearly Fee</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
<b>Friend of the Preserve</b>	\$50	1) Free admission to programs under \$5. 2) Free District hat. 3) 10% off of programs \$5-\$50.* 4) \$15 discount on programs over \$50. 5) Three free "members only" programs per year.
<b>Family of the Preserve</b> (Household Members)	\$100	Same as above (1-5).
<b>Partner of the Preserve</b> (Household Members)	\$500	Same as above (1-5). 6) Invitation to the annual dinner.
<b>Companion of the Preserve</b>	\$1000	Same as above (1-6). 7) Your own dedicated acre of preserve with a sign inside the JPC.**

\*Any programs that require an admission fee or are contracted will not receive a discount.

\*\*An acre agreed upon by staff and patron.

## Members Only Programs

Hayride and Campfire - *Members Only*

When: Saturday, **October 28**

Time: 5 - 6:30 pm

Ages: All

Register by noon on October 27.

Apple Cider Making - *Members Only*

When: Thursday, **September 21**

Time: 5 - 6 pm

Ages: All

Register by noon on September 20.

Meet the Eagles Trip - *Members Only*

When: Saturday, **December 16**

Time: 9 am - 2 pm

Ages: All

Register by noon on December 15.

**For more information,  
call 234-8535 ext. 217.**



## Compass Plant

By Rachel Schupbach, 2nd Year Seasonal Restorationist

One of the tallest standing plants out on the Jarrett Prairie Preserve is the Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*). It shows its lovely yellow blooms between late June and September. Standing between 3 and 10 feet tall, it literally towers over the rest of the local flora by a considerable amount. Its bright yellow blooms might remind you of sunflowers; but, in reality, this plant belongs to a group commonly called rosinweeds. Although it looks like a sunflower, it is botanically different. The ray of flowers of the compass plant produce the seeds, while in sunflowers, the disk flowers produce the seeds. The name rosinweed stems from the fact that when the plant is injured, it exudes a sticky resinous material that supposedly both settlers and Native Americans used as a sort of chewing gum.

Compass plant got its name because of the way in which its leaves align themselves in an upright position with the edges set north-south. It is a fairly common sight here at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve and it is found on dry prairies, hillsides, and occasionally in slightly disturbed areas. Its leaves are stiff, alternate, and often, aligned vertically and its flowers consist of several heads arranging themselves in a raceme-like manner up the stalk. This is not the only *Silphium* found here on the prairie. We also have the Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), and Rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*). All of these plants are of the Asteraceae family and have the signature yellow, sunflower-like flowers of the compass plant.



## Waterfowl in Our Area

By Eric Speakes, Seasonal Restorationist

Waterfowl is a term used to describe the nearly 150 different species of ducks, geese, and swans that can be found in refuges, in the sky, or even in our back yards. There are many types of these species that pass through our area and a few that live here year round. The most common waterfowl that we can see on a daily basis here in the Rock River Valley are the Mallard, the Wood Duck, and, of course, the Canadian Goose. There are some species of waterfowl that are difficult to spot; and, if they are spotted, they are only seen passing through. These species of waterfowl include the Canvasback, American Widgeon, and the Snow Goose.

These species are migratory birds meaning they move with the weather patterns of the year. Most of the waterfowl live and breed in the northern parts of North America. As the weather changes and the water they use for habitat becomes frozen in the fall, they start migrating back southward where they will be able to find open waters to reside in for the winter. As a result of the intensive development of the last century, many of these waterfowl species are having a difficult time finding habitat that they can utilize for feeding and breeding. Urban sprawl and rural developments that we see every day at the national level are eliminating large portions of the necessary habitat for waterfowl species to maintain healthy populations. As a result of this destruction, many private and governmental conservation organizations have been recreating lost habitat, and working to conserve parts of the many habitats waterfowl have used for thousands of years. Without these organizations, virtually all populations of these waterfowl would be decreasing annually but instead some of the populations are at record levels.

Here in the Rock River Valley, we see thousands of waterfowl passing through each year. They live on our farm ponds, in our local streams, on our nature preserves, and on the mighty Rock River. They like to feed on scattered grains they spot in our harvested fields, and on many of the species of insects and plant materials that grow in our waters. So once again, as the fall of the year comes around, keep your eyes and ears open and it is likely you will see several different species of waterfowl utilizing the important natural habitats in our area.





# Fall Fun!



## Halloween on the Prairie

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite program! We'll have hay rides, face painting, games, straw maze, crafts, and much more! Free admission.

Small fees for games and hayrides. An affordable concession stand will also be open.

The games at this event are co-sponsored by the Byron Park District.

### We need your help!

Local groups and organizations or just a few friends could get together to set up scenes along the hay ride route.

This is a great fundraising opportunity. Lots of prize money will be awarded and all groups receive a participation bonus. Call Richie at 234-8535 ext. 217 for more information.

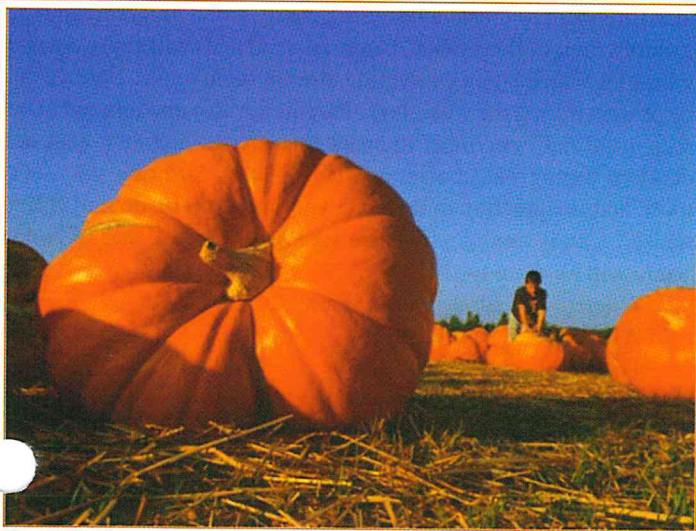


**Jarrett Prairie Center**  
**Oct. 29 • 1-5 pm**

## Family Pumpkin Carve

Bring your family and your carving utensils for a pumpkin carve. We'll provide the pumpkins and candles!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, **October 28**  
Time: 1 pm  
Cost: \$10 / family  
(includes 4 pumpkins)  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 3 / 20 families  
**Register by noon on October 25.**



*Pumpkins for sale at Stone Quarry Recreation Park beginning in October. Call 815-234-8900.*



# Christmas Fun!

## 15th Annual Holiday Craft Show

**Saturday, Nov. 11 - 9am-4pm & Sunday, Nov. 12 - 11am-3pm**

We're adding some fun features to this year's show! A free breakfast with Santa will be offered from 9-11am on Saturday, November 11th. All believers can visit with him and tell him everything they want for Christmas. We'll provide donuts, juice, and milk. Bring your cameras to capture this awesome memory!

Be sure to register to win the World's Largest Stocking. This 8', toy-filled stocking will be given away on Sunday afternoon, November 12th.

We're also going to be giving away door prizes throughout the two-day event. The prizes will be items donated by the craft booth vendors.

As always, this year's show will feature many unique items with over 30 craft booths. A variety of hand-crafted items will be available including Christmas ornaments and decorations, candles, wreaths, quilts, dolls, wood carvings, wooden furniture, hand-painted sweatshirts, baskets, birdhouses, and much more!

Admission is free. The Jarrett Prairie Center is accessible to the physically challenged. An affordable concession stand and bake sale will be open on both days.

Parents can come and shop while the youngsters learn about their heritage at the hands-on, natural history museum in the Jarrett Prairie Center.



*Visit Santa at the Craft Show and at Stone Quarry Park.*

There are still booths available at the show. The rental cost is \$30-\$40 per booth. If you would like more information, please call Michelle at 815-234-8535 ext. 224.

Take an evening drive through the forest preserve to see the festive holiday light show beginning in November. The park will be open every night until 10 pm for all to enjoy the displays.



### Visit Santa!

Come and tell him everything you want for Christmas!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturdays, **Dec. 9 & 16**  
Time: Noon - 2 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All Believers!

### Gingerbread House Workshops

Tickets are on sale now! Families can come together in a festive atmosphere to create a beautiful, candy-filled gingerbread house to adorn their holiday table! Children of all ages will enjoy covering their gingerbread (and everything else) in sugary goo! Parents must be present during the workshop. Parents are also encouraged to help their little ones decorate, to share this joyous memory with their children during this special holiday season! So bring your sweet tooth and imagination to decorate your own pre-made gingerbread house! Candy and icing will be supplied. Oh yes, and of course, Santa will be there too!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturdays, **Dec. 9 & 16**  
Time: 1 - 2 pm  
Cost: \$15 per gingerbread house  
Payment due at the time of registration.  
Ages: All (age 4 and under may share a house with a sibling or friend)  
Min/Max: Open  
Instructor: Marie-Laure Cortese  
**Register by noon on November 22.**





## Special Events

### Halo 2 Tournament

Team slayer to 100. Round robin tournament. Best two out of three matches wins. Each team must bring their own equipment (television, X-Box, game, controllers, etc.)

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Sunday, **September 17**  
Sunday, November 19  
Time: 1 pm  
Cost: \$20 / team of 4 people  
Ages: Middle & High School  
Min/Max: 3 / 15 teams

**Register by Noon on Wednesday, September 13 and November 15**

### Air Soft

This new activity will take place in the quarry. It is mandatory for kids to pre-register and fill out a waiver with signature of parent/guardian and participant. A rules/safety packet must be picked up at the time of registration. Anyone disobeying the rules will lose their Air Soft privileges. Boots, goggles, and carrying equipment are required! All new participants must sit through an orientation prior to playing.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturdays  
**September 2 & 16**  
Time: 1-3 pm - Session 1  
4-6 pm - Session 2  
Cost: \$3 / person / session  
Ages: Middle & High School  
Min/Max: 6 / open  
**Register by Noon on the Wednesday before you want to play.**

### Family Miniature Golf Tournament



Prizes for lowest overall family score, most "hole-in-one" shots, best adult score, best youth score.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Sunday, **September 3**  
Time: 2 pm  
Cost: \$10 per family of 4  
Age: All  
Min/Max: 3 / 20 families  
**Register by August 30.**

### Glow in the Dark Miniature Golf

Play miniature golf with a glow in the dark golf ball! The course will also be outlined with neon glow sticks!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Friday, **September 15**  
Time: Dusk - 9 pm  
Cost: \$6 / person  
Ages: All

### Daddy/Daughter Date Night

Pizza, drinks, ice cream sundaes, games, prizes, and fun with dad!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Friday, **November 17**  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Cost: \$15 / couple  
(\$5 per add'l daughter)  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / 15 couples  
**Register by noon on November 8.**

### Invite us to your next Special Event!

We offer educational programs to any group or organization including retirement homes and nursing facilities for a small fee. Using our nature staff and nature stuff, we come to you and deliver exciting and educational programs including:

- *Birds of a Feather*
- *Indian Life*  
(includes traditional dress)
- *Animal Encounter*  
(includes live animals)

Call Richie today at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to book your next on-site program.

## Coloring Contest

Wow us with your coloring skills!! Stop by Stone Quarry Park or the Jarrett Prairie Center during the month of October to pick up a blank picture. It must be colored and returned to either location by noon on **October 27**. The winners will be announced during the Family Pumpkin Carve at Stone Quarry on **October 28**. The winners will receive a pumpkin of their choice! One winner per age bracket. The age brackets are preschool/kindergarten, 1st-2nd grade, and 3rd-5th grade. For more info, call 234-8900.

*Think about this...  
The really happy man is  
one who can enjoy the scenery  
on a detour.*



# Volunteers, Etc.

## Field Trips

to the Natural History Museum,

Weiskopf Observatory, & Heritage Farm Museum

Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun tour of our great museums. Staff welcome and give tours for the low cost of \$1.50 per person with a minimum of \$30 per group. We offer many sessions to choose from including prairie ecology, museum tour, and observatory tour. Call 234-8535 x217 to schedule your next outing with us.

## Please Register Early

By registering early, each program, trip, and event has the best opportunity to meet the minimum number required for that activity. You may register by mail, by phone, or in person. When registering by phone/fax, you must use a credit card to secure your participation in that program.

**Payment is due at the time of registration.**

## Matt Johnson

### Scholarship Fund

Financial Assistance Available  
for Forest Preserve Programs  
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!

## Birthday Parties



### Jarrett Prairie Center

Themes: Native Americans, Sky's the Limit, Goodness Snakes, Insects of Our World, Where Do Butterflies Go When It Rains? Call 234-8535 x217 to schedule your party.

**Deluxe Party - \$75** (add'l child-\$5 each)

(program, cake, ice cream, tableware for 12, & banner)

**Standard Party - \$45** (add'l child-\$5 each)

(program only for 12)

**Stone Quarry Recreation Park**

also offers birthday parties.

For details and costs, please call 234-8900.

## Join Our Community of Volunteers

*Each person who gives of themselves,  
gives to themselves.*

## Tuesday Morning Volunteer Group

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
When: Tuesdays, Year Round  
Time: 8:30-11am  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All



## Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join the area men for coffee, and a time to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop.

Where: Maintenance Woodshop  
7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
When: Wednesdays, Year Round  
Time: 9-11am  
Cost: Free



## Individual and Family

The Byron Forest Preserve has several volunteer opportunities for individuals and families interested in sharing their time for special events, programs of both educational and recreational orientation. These events and programs run throughout the year. For more information, call Linda at 234-8535 x200.

## Organized Groups

The Byron Forest Preserve has service and volunteer opportunities. We can arrange times and specific service areas for you and your group. These areas can be related to awards, badges, or just for the benefit of learning to serve your community and others. For more information, call Linda at 234-8535 x200.



September  
October  
November  
December

11

## Dances, Etc.

### Stone Quarry Hours

(Park hours subject to change due to weather related conditions or low attendance)

#### Fall Hours

August 18 - September 30

Mon, Wed, Fri - 4-7pm

Saturday - 11am-7pm

Sunday - Noon-5pm

October 1 - October 31

Monday - 4-7pm

Saturday - 11am-5pm

Sunday - Noon-5pm

#### Winter Hours

November 1 - April 1

Monday - 4-7 pm

Saturday - 11am-5pm

No School Days and

Christmas Break

Open 11am-5pm

The park will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

If you would like more information on how to have exclusive use of the park for your next gathering, please call 234-8900.

Visit us at  
6845 German Church Rd, Byron  
[www.stonequarrypark.com](http://www.stonequarrypark.com)

**Matt Johnson**  
**Scholarship Fund**  
Financial Assistance Available  
for Forest Preserve Programs  
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!

### Middle School Dances

ALL area middle school students are welcome to come dance the night away!

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Dates listed below

Time: 7 - 10 pm

Cost: \$4 / person

Ages: Middle School

September 15

October 20

November 10

December 1

December 22

**Chaperones needed...**  
**please call 234-8900!**

### Kids Night Out

Featuring fun games, activities, and crafts. Kids always go home with prizes! Pizza and pop provided.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Dates listed below.

Time: 5:30 - 8 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: Third - Fifth Grade

Min/Max: 10 / 30

September 23

October 14

November 4

December 9

**Register by the Wednesday**  
**before the program.**

## Dance Academy

Presented by The Stage Door Performing Arts Studio

Do you love to dance or want to learn how? Have you ever dreamed of being in your favorite stage production? Then this dance program is just for you! Classes will include tap, ballet, jazz, and musical theater dance. There will be an end-of-the-year dance recital in May or June of 2007. These classes are for all levels of dance from beginners to experienced dancers. If you need more information prior to registration, please contact Shonnah at 234-8900.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Begins Monday, August 21

Time: 3:30-9:30 (depending on specific class)

Cost: TBA

Ages: 3-18

Instructor: Heather (Hartzell) Krick

Registration: August 14, 4-7pm at Stone Quarry Park



# Outdoor Adventures

September  
October  
November  
December

## It's Our River Day - Statewide Celebration

Learn about the Rock River's history and tour the Heritage Farm Museum. Then we'll go canoeing!

Where: Heritage Farm Museum  
When: Saturday, **September 16**  
Time: 2 - 6 pm  
Cost: \$28 / canoe  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 2 / 10 canoes

**Register by noon on September 15.**



## Canoeing the Rock

All equipment provided on this fun program.

Where: Meet at River Park Parking Lot  
When: Saturdays, **October 14 & 21**  
Time: 3 - 6 pm  
Cost: \$25 / canoe  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 2 / 10 canoes

**Register by noon on October 13 & 20.**

## Scavenger Hunt

We'll search for nature objects and return them for prizes.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sunday, **October 22**  
Time: 10 - 11 am  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 10 / none

**Register by noon on October 20.**

## Native Americans

Learn about these diverse and interesting people. We'll play games, make clothes, and listen to stories.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, **December 2**  
Time: 2 - 3:30 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: 3 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

**Register by noon on December 1.**



## Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays, **Sept. 10, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, & Dec. 10**  
Time: 2 - 4 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: 3 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

## Crappie Fishing

Bring your own equipment for a rare chance to fish on the golf course pond. Hot drinks provided. Dress for the weather.



Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays, **December 3 & 10**  
Time: 8 - 11 am  
Cost: \$5 / person (under 5 free)  
Ages: All

Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on December 1 & 8.**

## Owl Prowl

Learn about our stuffed native owls in the museum and then we'll take a hike to find some real ones.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesday & Thursday, **December 12 & 14**  
Time: 7 - 8:30 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on December 11 & 13.**



## Trip to UW-Madison Geology Museum

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday, **September 8**  
Time: 10 am - 6 pm  
Cost: \$10 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / 14

**Register by noon on September 7.**

## New Moon Night Hike

We'll take a hike during one of the darkest nights of the year.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday, **September 22**  
Time: 8 - 9:30 pm  
Cost: \$3 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on September 21.**

## Catch and Release Fishing

We'll take you to a private pond for some great fishing. Bring your own equipment. Live bait provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturdays, **September 30** and November 4  
Time: 2 - 6 pm  
Cost: \$6 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / 14

**Register by noon on September 29 and November 3..**



# BCR Continues Hard Work

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2006

*In this issue:*

- New directional signs installed in Byron
- Library issues discussed, action needed
- ATAC fundraiser a success at ByronFest
- Looking to spend more time with your kids? Volunteer with them!
- BCR continues to achieve its goals

**Farmer's Market**  
Mark your  
calendars now!  
*Saturdays starting*  
*August 5 through*  
*September 30*  
**Sunshine Park**  
**8:30 a.m. to**  
**11:30 a.m.**

BCR, Inc.  
Ron Millard,  
Coordinator  
232 W. 2nd St.  
PO Box 397  
Byron, IL 61010  
234-8709 ext. 242  
234-7753 fax  
rmillard@es-il.org



## BCR Reaches Another Goal, New Byron Point of Interest Signs Installed

Byron Community Revitalization, Inc. is proud to announce that new directional signs were installed this summer. The 18 signs highlight Byron's prominent points of interest including Prairie View Golf Course, Byron City Hall, the Byron Dragway, Lake Louise, and the High School.

"Through our combined efforts, BCR and the City of Byron are working towards a common goal, beautifying our city," said Byron Mayor R. Scot Nason. "One of the steps we have taken to promote and assist in the beautification process is our new tourism signs. These signs will provide direc-



One of the 18 new directional signs installed in summer of 2006. BCR worked hard to complete this important project.

tion to tourists and citizens alike. Our combined efforts will ensure that our city continues to move forward."

BCR worked with IDOT

to have the signs approved and created. Funding came from donations and from fundraisers such as the BCR Golf Playday.

## BCR Works Toward Helping Byron Prosper

Byron Community Revitalization, Inc. works with local organizations, residents and businesses to improve Byron's tourism, economic growth and overall image.

BCR is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that

fills in the gaps where other organizations can't due to budget or time constraints.

BCR works toward a better future for all residents of Byron, and values your input. By helping us create and meet new goals, you can take an

active role in shaping Byron's future.

Are you ready to help Byron prosper? Contact BCR today to see how you can help. We'll do our best to pair you up with projects that suit your talents and availability.



## BCR Meeting Goals, Reaching Toward More



BCR continues to meet its goals.

The BCR Board of Directors has updated the BCR goals so that they more closely reflect projects that will benefit the residents of Byron.

BCR has been working hard to accomplish many of its goals, and looks to the community for input. If you have a project idea, feel free to contact Ron Millard at the BCR office. Your idea could be the next big project to help Byron!

### Goals accomplished:

- Installed new local attraction and directional signs on Routes 2 and 72.
- Started Farmer's/Crafter's Market in Sunshine Park
- Continued support of Byron Teens via the ATAC Committee
- Distribute BCR newsletter in Byron

### Goals to be met:

- Additional marketing of tourism for Byron Community
- New entry signs for community
- Route 2 Beautification and Byron in Bloom theme.
- Create new and exciting fundraisers that appeal to the greater community

### *Time to stop talking and start doing.*

Many volunteer opportunities are available, and we do our best to suit your talents and availability. Individuals, families and groups are welcome.

Call Ron Millard today at 234-8709 ext. 242 to see how you can help Byron.

## Spend Time With Your Kids, Volunteer Together

"I'm bored."

Too frequently, our kids moan these words and although Byron's small size has many advantages, it is not where our kids want to hang out.

BCR's Adult and Teen Activities Committee works toward curing boredom through its work on various projects.

Stone Quarry Recreational Park was one of the group's most ambitious projects, and it was a great success. Countless teens have enjoyed the skate park facilities and families have enjoyed the park's other activities.

These high school students, led by Jim Cichock and Ron Millard,

have accomplished many other goals as well. They have conducted a fast food survey, created a successful Halo Two tournament and raised money at ByronFest selling Dippin' Dots.

ATAC is looking toward the future for new projects geared toward teens. These young adults have proven they can create goals and meet them.

One great way to help these ambitious people is to volunteer to lead them or serve on a committee. By getting actively involved with your teen's projects, you can spend time with them and help them achieve their goals.

Leadership positions are even ideal for couples who want to make a stronger

connection with their high school students. If you've ever wanted to volunteer but couldn't because of family commitments, this is an opportunity to get your family involved and still help Byron.

By volunteering together you not only get to spend valuable time together, but you set an excellent example for your teens and even your entire family to follow. Don't forget to include aunts, uncles and grandparents, too!

Contact BCR Coordinator Ron Millard at BCR today, **234-8709 ext. 242** to sign up or for more information. Ron will do his best to pair you up with projects that meet your talents and availability.



## BCR Position on Library Location: Follow Comprehensive Plan

The BCR Board of Directors again makes its position known that it believes the Byron Library Board should follow the Greater Byron Area Comprehensive Plan. BCR was instrumental in hiring the firm of Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen and Payne, Inc. in August of 2000 for the Byron Community to assist us with the preparation of a Community Plan. This was an investment of \$57,400 that came from local citizens, busi-

nesses and four governments. The Byron City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan on October 13, 2003.

Wide Survey to 3,300 households in January 2001 with a 22.5% return. The Library District, for whatever reason, chose not to participate in this two year work process for the citizens of the Greater Byron Area. This process led to classifying the land along Route 2 (current proposed site of new Library) as Commercial in the best interest of the entire community. If the Library takes up valuable real estate on Byron's retail

growth is largely north of Route 2, which is where the new middle school would be located. By these two government agencies working together, they would save all taxpayers money and better serve all the residents. It is important to understand that this type of arrangement is not new to our community. The Park District and School District both benefit from sharing facilities and it saves the residents money.



It only makes sense that the Library Board members work to save taxpayers' money.

*Let's use some good old fashion "common sense" and urge your elected officials at the Library District to work hand in hand with the Byron School District to save us Taxpayers some money.*

Currently there are many inter-governmental agreements in place to save money for our residents. Agencies participating in these arrangements include the Byron Museum District, City of Byron, Byron Forest Preserve, Byron Park District and Byron School District. So what we are asking the Library and School to do is nothing new and has been done many times in our community by the above mentioned agencies.

Let's use some good old fashion "common sense" and urge your elected officials at the Library District to work hand in hand with the Byron School District to save us Taxpayers some money. The School District is waiting on the Library, please call before it is too late.

*If the Library takes up valuable real estate on Byron's retail corridor, this new Library could stifle new growth and in the long run be detrimental to all taxpayers of the Byron area.*

nesses and four governments. The Byron City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan on October 13, 2003.

Over 25 citizens worked for two years on this plan and the consultant firm conducted a Community Workshop on October 12, 2000, Key Person interviews and a Community-

corridor, this new Library could stifle new growth and in the long run be detrimental to all taxpayers of the Byron area.

Now the Byron School District has citizen approval to build a new Byron Middle School and has offered the Library the chance to build next to the new school. Byron's new population

## BCR Announces Creation of Monument Awards

Byron Community Revitalization has announced the creation of a new award that honors past volunteers for their hard work and service.

The Monument Awards will be given when an individual or company has made major contribu-

tions to the Byron Community through their involvement with BCR over a number of years.

"It's important for us to recognize and honor special individuals who give so much to make Byron a better place," said Ron Millard, BCR Coordinator.

In addition to a dinner or luncheon in their honor, recipients will have their name inscribed on a plaque. This plaque will be proudly displayed in the City of Byron Municipal building for all citizens to appreciate.



**Byron Community  
Revitalization, Inc.**

PO Box 397  
232 West Second Street  
Byron, IL 61010  
Rmillard@es-il.org

Phone: 815-234-8709 Ext. 242  
Fax: 815-234-7753

**Volunteer today!**

**BCR Board of Directors**

Ed Clift—President

Caryn Huber—Vice  
President

Jim Cichock—Secretary

Darlene King—Treasurer

Dr. Bob Summers

Loren Colloton

Ernie Leombruni

Larry Rose

Doug Floski

Dr. Laurel Velte

Gene G. Stoll

Ron Millard—Coordinator



Volunteering with BCR is one way you can give back to the Byron community, and help shape its future. Contact Ron Millard today at 234-8709 ext. 242 for more information.

# Byron Community Revitalization

## Accomplishments 1999-2006

### Retail Energizers Team

- Retail Market Research Study Conducted 2000
- Parking Survey of the Business District
- Snow Removal Research for the Business District
- Farmer's Market held for two years
- Farmer's Market offered in Summer of 2006

### Planning Team

- Completed Byron Comprehensive Plan
- Plan submitted to the City of Byron in 2001
- Plan approved by the Byron City Council in 2003

### Design Team

- Completed installation of 5,000 brick pavers on 2nd Street
- Worked to have corner islands on 2nd Street included in project
- Raised over \$20,000 for landscaping the islands on 2nd Street
- Developed Byron Design Standards
- Byron City Council approved the Design Standards
- Designed tourism signs for Routes 2 and 72 in 2006
- Tourism signs for Routes 2 and 72 installed in summer 2006

### Tourism

- Developed Holiday Cards program for B.J. Way Park
- Organized the first two Greater Byron Garage Sale Days
- Developed tourism rack card for Byron
- Developed Tourism Ad Northwest Visitors Guide (circulation 80,000)
- Developed and distributed local Restaurant Guide

### Adult & Teen Action Team

- Spearheaded the development of Stone Quarry Recreation Park
- Worked to help secure over \$345,000 in State Grants
- Assisted with Tiger Town Park in 2003 and 2004
- Conducted a fast food survey of Byron visitors in 2005

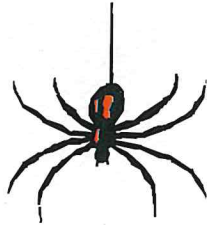


# Outdoor Adventures

## Spider Hunt

We'll start with spider identification. We'll go outside to find some of the spiders on the prairie. We're sure to find a few wolf spiders and maybe even catch a beautiful argiope for examination and release.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, **September 2**  
Time: 10 am - Noon  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: 6 and up  
Register by noon on September 1.



## Family Telescope Night

Find out how to use and get more from your telescope.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Friday, **September 29**  
Time: 6 - 7:30pm  
Cost: \$3 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none  
Register by noon on September 29.

## Constellations of the Season

Make your own planisphere and learn how to use it. We'll also search for deep sky objects.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Sunday, **October 8**  
Time: 6 - 7:30 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / 20  
Register by noon on October 6.



## America Recycles Day - Shirt Giveaway

Recycle some household waste at our bin and get a free t-shirt (while supplies last).

Where: Recycling Bin at Maintenance Area  
When: Tuesday, **November 14**  
Time: 2 - 4:30 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All

## Trip to Aldo Leopold Festival

We're going to Monona, WI to visit this 10th annual festival.

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday, **October 20**  
Time: 3 - 10 pm  
Cost: \$25 / person  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5 / 14  
Register by noon on October 19.

## Attention Brownies / Scouts!

With these workshops, you'll earn your requirements for your badges. Brownies/scouts of all ages are welcome. Dress for the weather.

### Webelo Badge - Forester

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesday, **September 12**  
Time: 5 - 7 pm  
Cost: \$5 / webelo  
Min/Max: 5 / none  
Register by noon on September 11.

### Scout Badge - Indian Lore

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesday, **September 26**  
Time: 5 - 7 pm  
Cost: \$5 / scout  
Min/Max: 10 / none  
Register by noon on September 25.



### Brownie Try-It - Watching Wildlife

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, **October 19**  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$4 / brownie  
Register by October 17.

### Brownie Try-It - Science Wonders

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, **November 16**  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$4 / brownie  
Please register by November 14.

### Brownie Try-It - Science in Action

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, **December 9**  
Time: 4 - 6 pm  
Cost: \$4 / brownie  
Register by December 6.



### Hunter Education Class

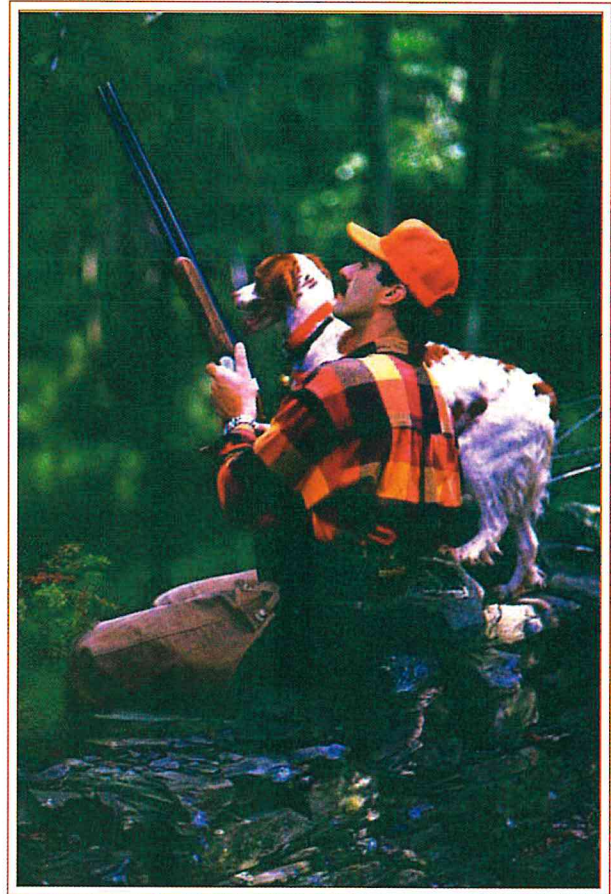
Complete this 10-hour class to earn your certification card. Great for the beginner or the hunter who travels out of state.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tues., Thurs., Fri. - Nov. 28, 30, & Dec. 1  
Time: 6-8pm (Tues) and 5-9pm (Thurs-Fri)  
Cost: FREE - Donations accepted  
Ages: All. Must be able to pass a written test.  
**Register by noon on November 27.**

### Youth Hunting Lessons

Join an experienced mentor in the field for this new program on squirrel hunting. We'll take you to an approved location and instruct you on ethical, legal, and safe hunting methods. We provide the woods, a mentor, and expertise. You provide the firearm, ammunition, hunting license, hunter orange, and patience. Student must already be proficient with their firearm. The first ten to register will receive a free copy of "A Sand County Almanac".

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Call to schedule - 234-8535 ext. 217.  
Time: Call to schedule. Hunts are 3 hours.  
Cost: \$25  
Ages: 12-17 (must have adult) & 18-21  
**Register one week in advance of desired lesson.**



## Governor Blagojevich signs Illinois Apprentice Hunter License Program

Springfield - Governor Blagojevich signed a new law creating the Illinois Apprentice Hunter License Program. The law creates a new special hunting license to give those who do not hunt a chance to try it before buying a regular Illinois hunting license.

"Hunting is a way of life in many parts of Illinois. This new program gives parents and grandparents a way

to introduce their children to the sport, and will give adults who didn't grow up hunting the chance to try it with a licensed hunter," said Governor Blagojevich.

The Apprentice Hunter License Program

will allow youngsters ages 10-17 to buy an apprentice license and go hunting with a parent, grandparent, or guardian who has a valid Illinois resident hunting license. Those 18 and older will be able to buy an apprentice license and go hunting with any family member or friend who is a validly licensed Illinois resident hunter.

The Apprentice Hunter License will be a one-time, non-renewable license. It will be available only to residents of Illinois beginning this fall from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for \$7 each. The apprentice license will be valid from the date it is issued to the following March 31. Apprentice Hunter License holders will also have to buy any additional required permits or stamps, such as a deer hunting permit or habitat stamp.

HUNTING  
**LICENSES**  
&  
GAME  
**TAGS**



## FREE KIDS CONCERTS!

Jarrett Prairie Center

Sponsored by Exelon



### Reptiles, Reptiles, Reptiles!

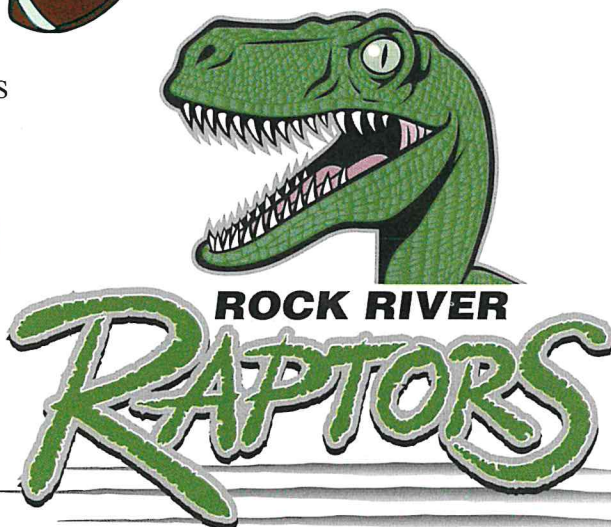
Come and learn what makes reptiles special. See and touch live snakes and turtles!

Saturday, November 18  
3 - 4 pm

### Rock River Raptors

Come and learn about Rockford's only professional football team. Possible appearances by coaches, players, and mascots!

Saturday, December 9  
3 - 4 pm





## My Time

### *Program for Children with Special Needs*

My Time is a new program for children with special needs. The program was designed by Angela Hodges, Child Development Specialist. As a parent of a special needs child, Carla Capasso-Berg realized there were no programs in Ogle County designed to help us communicate with our children. At 18 months old, her son signs over 20 words! Many parents do not have resources to teach their children sign language. Those who have resources, can't find other children who speak sign so the children often have no playmates.

My Time is geared towards ages 0-5 years old. The program will offer activities created by a developmental therapist. We will use sign language throughout the class time. Children will see this as a chance to get out of their often very limited lives and have fun. Parents will see this as a chance to improve their communication with their children. This allows the children to be in an environment all of their own with other children in the same situation.

Children need their parents to be active in their care. With your help, My Time can change the lives of many children.

My Time is held every other Saturday at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois.

Please contact Carla Capasso-Berg at 815-970-2852 if you're interested in participating in this wonderful program.

## Preschool

Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. Beginning this fall, the Byron Forest Preserve's Preschool will offer a three-day per week class. The Tuesday/Thursday classes will be geared towards 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes will be geared towards older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2006, to attend the three-day class. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year.

Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs  
Time: 9-11:30am or 1-3:30 pm  
Cost: \$80/month-Mon/Wed/Fri  
\$65/month-Tues/Thurs

Ages: 3-5 years  
Min/Max: 6 / 20

**Registration ongoing.**



### **Meet the Teachers on August 24 • 6:30-8pm**

The parents of all students enrolled in preschool are encouraged to attend our "Meet the Teachers" program. Refreshments will be served as you become more familiar with your teachers and re-designed classroom.



### **Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund Financial Assistance Available**

Call Executive Director Ed Clift at 234-8535 ext. 201.



## Winter Break Camp

We'll keep your little ones busy with crafts, games, stories, and outdoor adventures!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: **December 27-29 and January 2-4**  
Times: 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm  
Ages: 3-6  
Fee: \$8 / day  
Min/Max: 5 / 14

**Register by noon the day before you want to attend.**



## Classes & Clubs

### Health Awareness Classes Offered

The Byron Forest Preserve is hosting a series of free health awareness classes at the Jarrett Prairie Center. The following classes will begin at 10:30 am. The classes will be presented by an American Cancer Society representative:

*Healthy Eating*  
Wednesday, August 23



*Great American  
Smokeout*  
Wednesday  
November 15

If you are interested in attending any of these classes, please call 234-8535 ext. 200.

### Join The Club... Byron Area Seniors

The Byron Area Seniors is a group of area seniors citizens (age 55 & up) who meet a couple of times per month for fun and fellowship. The membership fee is only \$10.

The following events are scheduled for this fall:

*Sept. 11*  
Potluck at Jarrett Prairie Center  
*Sept. 20*  
Diamond Joe Casino  
*Oct. 9*  
Potluck at Jarrett Prairie Center  
*Oct. 18*  
Apple Holler, Sturtevant, WI  
*Nov. 13*  
Thanksgiving Lunch/Maxson Manor  
*Dec. 6*  
East Peoria Festival of Lights  
*Dec. 11*  
Potluck at Jarrett Prairie Center

If you would like to join this group or would like more information, please call Kit Reif at 234-5606.

### Attention Real Estate Agents

River Valley Real Estate Academy will be offering a Sales Person Class at the Jarrett Prairie Center. This class is 45 hours of course work. The cost is \$295 which includes books and materials. Broker classes are also offered.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Joe Wilkinson at 298-4826.



## ~~~~~ Mad Science ~~~~~

**Mad Science** of Rockford/Boone County offers hands-on fun science. Their mission is to spark the imagination of children ages 3-12 years old with birthday parties, camps, assemblies, workshops, after-school programs and much more!

Their trained Mad Scientist will travel to entertain and educate children. Their goal is to inspire children to want to learn more. They want to make their students MAD about SCIENCE!

The following classes will be offered at the Jarrett Prairie Center. All of the classes are for ages 7 and up. The minimum registration required is 10 students and the maximum is 30. If you would like to register or for more information, please call 815-332-8404 or visit their website at [www.madsciencerockford.com](http://www.madsciencerockford.com).

#### Mad Science CSI Lab

**Sept. 30 - 10:30am-Noon - \$18/child**

Someone broke the law and a Mad Scientist will help you use some science to find out who is responsible! Junior detectives will learn techniques the pros use to closely examine a crime scene. They will identify witnesses, dust for prints, and use deductive reasoning to solve our Mad Science crime.

#### Mad Science Slime Lab

**Oct. 30 - 5-6 pm - \$12/child**

It's slime time in our jam-packed polymer workshop. Learn about the amazing stretchy science behind polymers of all sorts, from slime to faux snow. We'll show you how to make a "balloon-kabob" and more. Each participant makes their very own Mad Science Slime to bring home.

#### Mad Science Building Structures

**Nov. 4 - 10:30am-Noon - \$18/child**

Discover the strengths of triangles, cylinders, and arches. Learn how combinations of these shapes make for sturdy homes and skyscrapers! Use teamwork to build super structures and bridges.

#### Mad Science Christmas Chemistry

**Dec. 26-29 - 1-3pm - \$85/child**

Children will have a great time making peppermint ice cream as they learn about endothermic and exothermic reactions! Our budding chemists will create cocoa rolls, bath fizzers, chalk, and snowballs that won't melt inside!



## Scrapbooking - Creative Memories

Creative Memories scrapbooking classes are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center by Cindy Adams and Vicki Miller. If you're interested in signing up for one of their classes, please call Cindy at 234-7505.

## Scrapbooking for Kids

Bring your photos of summer camp, sports camp, or whatever you like, and we'll show you how to put together a fantastic scrapbook. Cost includes materials to make a fabric covered journal, paper, stickers, and other decorations.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, September 16  
Time: 1-3 pm  
Ages: 8-14  
Cost: \$5/person  
**Register by September 13.**



## Craft and Game Workshop for Babysitters

Learn a variety of easy indoor and outdoor games appropriate for small groups of children that take little or no preparation or equipment. We'll also cover simple but creative craft ideas that keep little hands busy (and don't make a mess!). Participants will take home a booklet of the ideas we cover and lots of others.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, September 28  
Time: 6-8 pm  
Ages: 12-16  
Cost: \$3/person  
**Register by September 26.**

## Writing Workshop for Aspiring Writers

We'll learn how to organize story ideas, hatch plot bunnies, develop characters, and try some short writing exercises to help motivate creativity. Feel free to bring in works in progress or completed pieces to share. Fiction, non-fiction, and poetry welcome!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, October 14  
Time: 1-3 pm  
Ages: 10-14  
Cost: \$2/person



## Fall Painting

We'll gather some fall leaves and use them to make leaf prints. We'll also use natural materials to make some pretty artwork.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, October 21  
Time: 1-2 pm  
Ages: 4-7  
Cost: FREE



## Make a Dreamcatcher

We'll learn a little about the mythology behind these beautiful hanging designs, and everyone will make his or her own dreamcatcher to keep. Cost includes all materials. We will use natural willow and grapevine rather than metal hoops.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, November 4  
Time: 3-5 pm  
Ages: 8-14  
Cost: \$3/person  
**Register by November 1.**

## Printmaking for Kids

Kids will get to carve their own design and use it to make ink prints using safe, soft materials. This is a wonderful art technique that produces beautiful results suitable for framing!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, November 18  
Time: 1-3 pm  
Ages: 8-13  
Cost: \$3/person  
**Register by November 15.**

## Hand-Made Card Workshop

We provide all materials to make a variety of cards, from holiday greetings to birthdays. Techniques will include paint, ink, stamps, printing, and calligraphy. All materials included to make 12 cards.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, December 9  
Time: 1-3 pm  
Ages: 8-14  
Cost: \$3/person  
**Register by December 6.**



## Artist's Reception - Rick Davis

During the entire month of November, you can enjoy Rick's pencil portraits, watercolor paintings, and technical drawings.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesday, November 28  
Time: 6-8 pm



# Facilities

## Jarrett Prairie Center

Habitat exhibits, dioramas, audio interpretation, and view of the prairie. Wetland, woodlands, and prairie environments are displayed pre-European settlement. You may also get a souvenir in our gift shop.

Where: 7993 N. River Rd., Byron

When: Open Every Day

Cost: Free

Time: Mon, Wed, Fri - 8am-4:30pm

Tues & Thurs - 8am-8pm

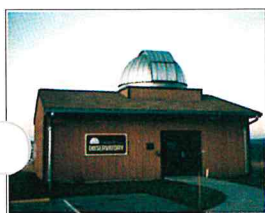
Sat-9am-4pm & Sun-1-4pm



## Canoe Rentals!!

We rent canoes. Just call us with your date and number of canoes needed. We'll haul you upstream on the Rock River and accompany you back to your vehicles at the River Park parking lot. Canoes are \$25 each and include paddles and life jackets. Call Richie, 234-8535 ext. 217 for this unique and fun outing!

## Weiskopf Observatory



View the stars and planets through our 11" Celestron telescope. Experienced staff will guide you through the skies. Call for viewing conditions at 234-8535, ext. 216. Closed if cloudy.

Where: 7993 N. River Rd., Byron

Time: Dark until 3 hours after dark

When: Tuesdays & Saturdays

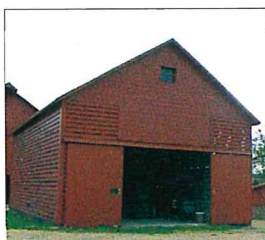
Cost: Free

## Recycling Station

The Byron Forest Preserve District has a mission to provide for preservation of natural resources, to provide education about natural and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation. The District developed a recycling station and is educating hundreds of students on recycling through the International Earthkeepers program. Materials from the recycling station are collected and sorted twice per month, producing up to three tons of recyclable material like cardboard, glass, newspaper, plastic, and metals. The cost of hauling is covered through a cooperative agreement with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department.



## Heritage Farm Museum



Enjoy a guided tour of this 1800s farm and museum with audio interpretation. Includes a grout house, corn crib, wind mill, and more.

Open Hours:

April 1 - October 31

Mon-Fri - 8am-4:30pm

Sat - 10am-4pm

Sun - 2-6pm



Self-guided tours are free. A small fee may be charged for guided tours. Closed on holidays. Call 234-8535 ext. 217 for more information.

## Banquet Facilities

The Jarrett Prairie Center, PrairieView Golf Club, and Stone Quarry Recreation Park have banquet facilities available at very reasonable rates, bar service is also available at the Jarrett Prairie Center and PrairieView Golf Club. Large and small groups welcome.

Picnic shelters are located near the Jarrett Prairie Center and Stone Quarry Recreation Park. The North Shelter has a playground and the South Shelter has a fireplace. These two shelters are equipped with restrooms, electricity, water, and grills. Call 234-8535 x200 to schedule your next outing with us.

The station accepts glass, aluminum, plastic #1-5 & #7, tin, steel, mixed paper, cardboard, and newspaper. The bin is located in the maintenance parking lot at 7993 N. River Rd. in Byron. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived.



# PrairieView Golf Club

## Save on 2007 Season Golf Passes!

Just a reminder that 2007 season golf passes will go on sale in November. By purchasing your 2007 season golf pass early, you will save money! Golf passes are discounted until Christmas. After Christmas, passes will be sold at the full rate. A complete listing of pass fees, VIP fees, and green fees will be published in the next edition of *The Blaze*. For more information, call 815-234-4653.

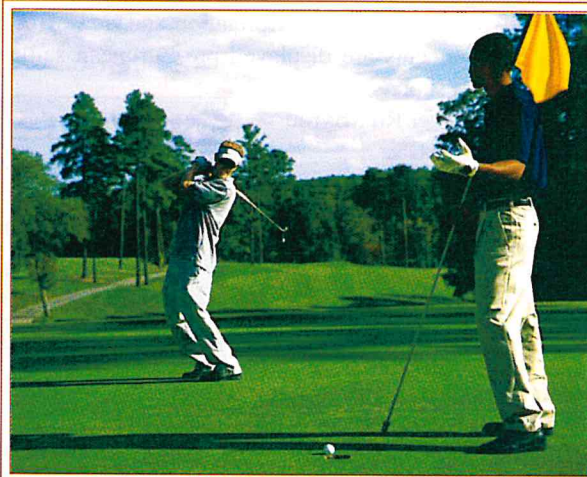
## Banquet & Meeting Rooms Available

PrairieView offers banquet and meeting room facilities. Catering and bar service are also available.

The pavilion accommodates more than 200 people for dinner. Perfect for playdays, awards banquets, family reunions, and wedding receptions.

There are also smaller meeting areas at PrairieView's clubhouse. The dining room and a smaller room located on the lower level are available for seminars and meetings.

For more information, please call Molly at 815-234-4653 ext. 11.



## Fall Junior Golf League

PrairieView's popular Fall Junior Golf League will begin Sunday, August 27th. The league will play on Sunday afternoons through early October. The league is designed for boys and girls 4th through 8th grade with some previous golfing experience. The cost of the league is \$30 and includes prizes and a cookout on the last day of league play. For more information or to register, call 815-234-4653.

Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund  
Financial Assistance Available  
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!



## Gold Medal Classic

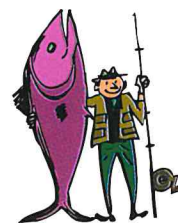
The 15th Annual Gold Medal Golf Classic is scheduled for September 9th and 10th. Last year's tournament drew a record number of players and included a ladies division for the third straight year. The tournament is 36 holes played at scratch and is flighted after the first round. The cost of the tournament is \$85 (\$55 for season golf pass holders) and includes over \$4,000 in prizes. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever with another record of entries, so register early! For more information or to register, call 815-234-4653.



# Calendar of Events

## September

2	Spider Hunt - Ages 6 and up - \$2/person - 10am-Noon - JPC
2 & 16	Air Soft - Middle/High School Age - \$3/person/session - 1-3pm & 4-6pm - SQ
3	Family Miniature Golf Tournament - \$10/family (4) - 2 pm - SQ
5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
5, 12, 19, 26	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop
8	Trip to UW-Madison Geology Museum - \$10/person - 10am-6pm - JPC
11	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
11	Byron Area Seniors - Potluck at JPC - Call Kit at 234-5606.
12	Webelo Badge Workshop (Forester) - \$5/webelo - 5-7pm - JPC
15	Glow in the Dark Miniature Golf - \$6/person - Dusk-9pm - SQ
15	Middle School Dance - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
16	Scrapbooking for Kids - Ages 8-14 - \$5/person - 1-3pm - JPC
16	It's Our River Day - Statewide Celebration - \$28/canoe - 2-6pm - HF
16	Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$3/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
17	Halo 2 Tournament - Middle/High School - \$20/team - 1 pm - SQ
20	Byron Area Seniors - Diamond Joe Casino Trip - Call Kit at 234-5606.
21	Members Only - Apple Cider Making - 5-6pm - JPC
22	New Moon Night Hike - \$3/person - 8-9:30pm - JPC
23	Kids Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
25	Webelo Badge Workshop (Indian Lore) - \$5/webelo - 5-7pm - JPC
29	Craft and Game Workshop for Babysitters - Ages 12-16 - \$3/person - 6-8pm - JPC
30	Family Telescope Night - \$3/person - 6-7:30pm - WO
30	Catch & Release Fishing - \$6/person - 2-6pm - JPC
30	Mad Science CSI Lab - Ages 7 and up - 10:30-Noon - \$18/child - Call 815-332-8404



## October

3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC
4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop
8	Constellations of the Season - \$2/person - 6-7:30pm - WO
9	Byron Area Seniors - Potluck at JPC - Call Kit at 234-5606.
14	Writing Workshop for Aspiring Writers - Ages 10-14 - \$2/person - JPC
14	Kids Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$3/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
14 & 21	Canoeing the Rock - \$25/canoe - 3-6pm - Across from HF
18	Byron Area Seniors - Apple Holler Trip to Sturtevant, WI - Call Kit at 234-5606.
19	Brownie Try-It (Watching Wildlife) - \$4/brownie - 6-8pm - JPC
20	Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
20	Trip to Aldo Leopold Festival - Adults - \$25/person - 3-10pm - JPC
21	Fall Painting - Ages 4-7 - Free - 1-2pm - JPC
22	Scavenger Hunt - \$2/person - 10-11am - JPC
27-28	Coloring Contest - Preschool-Fifth Grade - SQ
28	Family Pumpkin Carve - \$10/family - 1pm - SQ
28	Members Only - Hayride & Campfire - 5-6:30pm - JPC
29	Halloween on the Prairie - 1-5pm - Free Admission - JPC
	Mad Science Slim Lab - Ages 7 and up - 5-6pm - \$12/child - Call 815-332-8404.





# Calendar of Events

## November

4	Mad Science Building Structures - Ages 7 and up - \$18/child - 10:30am-Noon - JPC
4	Catch and Release Fishing - \$6/person - 2-6pm - JPC
4	Make a Dreamcatcher - Ages 8-14 - \$3/person - 3-5pm - JPC
4	Kids Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
8, 15, 22, 29	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
10	Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
11-12	Annual Craft Show - Sat-9am-4pm & Sun-11am-3pm - Free Admission - JPC
12	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
13	Byron Area Seniors - Thanksgiving Luncheon at Maxson Manor - Call Kit at 234-5606.
14	America Recycles Day (Shirt Giveaway) - 2-4:30pm - Recycling Bin/Maintenance Area
15	Health Awareness Class (Great American Smokeout) - Free - 10:30am - JPC
16	Brownie Try-It (Science Wonders) - \$4/brownie - 6-8pm - JPC
17	Daddy-Daughter Date Night - \$15/couple & \$5/add'l daughter - 5:30-7:30pm - SQ
18	Printmaking for Kids - Ages 8-13 - \$3/person - 1-3pm - JPC
18	Kids Concert (Reptiles, Reptiles, Reptiles!) - Free - 3-4pm - JPC
19	Halo 2 Tournament - Middle/High School Age - \$20/team - 1pm - SQ
28	Artist's Reception (Rick Davis) - 6-8pm - JPC
28, 30, & Dec. 1	Hunter Education Class - Free - Tues-6-8pm & Thurs-Fri-5-9pm - JPC



## December

1 & 22	Middle School Dances - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
2	Native Americans - \$2/person - 2-3:30pm - JPC
2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
3 & 10	Crappie Fishing - \$5/person (under 5 free) - 8-11am - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
6	Byron Area Seniors Trip to East Peoria Festival of Lights - Call Kit at 234-5606.
9	Hand-Made Card Workshop - Ages 8-14 - \$3/person - JPC
9	Kids Concert (Rock River Raptors) - FREE - 3-4pm - JPC
9	Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
9	Brownie Try-It (Science in Action) - \$4/brownie - 4-6pm - JPC
9 & 16	Build a Gingerbread House Workshop - \$15/house - 1-2pm - SQ
9 & 16	Visit Santa - Free - Noon-2pm - SQ
10	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
11	Byron Area Seniors - Potluck at the Jarrett Prairie Center - Call Kit at 234-5606.
12 & 14	Owl Prowl - \$2/person - 7-8:30pm - JPC
16	Members Only - Meet the Eagles Trip - 9am-2pm - JPC
26-29	Mad Science Christmas Chemistry - Ages 7 and up - \$85/child - 1-3pm - JPC
27-29 & Jan. 2-4	Winter Break Camp - Ages 3-6 - \$8/day - 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm - JPC





# Prairie & Scholarships

## Sweet Clovers - Aggressive Invaders

By Russell Brunner, Asst. Supt. of Restoration

There is a long and growing list of exotic and invasive species causing damage to our native ecosystems. Two of the more abundant and aggressive invasive species on the Forest Preserve's prairies are white and yellow sweet-clover (*Melilotus alba* and *officinalis*). These two exotic species were introduced to North America in the 1600s from their native range of central Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia. The sweet-clover species are biennial legumes (pea family) with compound leaves consisting of three leaflets. In wetter summers, these plants grow to heights of more than 4' with multiple stems arranged with white or yellow many-flowered spikes. These two species are commonly seen along our roadsides and in other disturbed sites, but are also able to invade quality natural areas like our remnant prairies here at the Forest Preserve.

A large portion of our summer restoration season is spent trying to control these abundant invasive species. The sweet-clovers are problematic to our prairies because of their ability to shade out our sun-loving native species and out-compete our natives for water and nutrients. Sweet-clovers spread rapidly and are difficult to control due to their prolific seed production; a single plant can produce thousands of seeds that remain viable for up to 30 years. In addition, the plants are drought resistant and winter hardy. As a result, sweet-clovers can form dense populations that eventu-



ally crowd out native plants. To manage these species, our restoration staff spends hundreds of hours hand pulling, cutting, and herbicide spraying these plants. As a last resort, we mow large populations just before the plants set seed. Once these plants set seed, we have to remove the plants and burn them. If you come out and visit the prairies of the Forest Preserve in July, you are likely to see these plants in bloom, and you are just as likely to see our restoration staff working on controlling these aggressive exotic species.

## Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund

In 2003, the Byron Forest Preserve District announced the establishment of the Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program by Dr. Robert and Holly Johnson of Byron. The Scholarship Awards program is a fund of money that is available for the youth of the Byron community who are in need of financial assistance to participate in the activities of the Byron Forest Preserve District, such as skateboarding, golf, summer day camp, and any other scheduled programs.

Matt, the son of Holly and Robert, was an avid skateboarder and was interested in golf, until his life was cut tragically short at the age of 18 in a car accident in 1997.

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and staff are grateful for the Johnsons' generosity in the cre-

ation of the Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program for the children of the Byron area.

Over the past three years, this fund has awarded over \$3,500 in scholarships to the youth of our community. This program is available for all programs that are offered at the Byron Forest Preserve District.

To qualify for a Funship Award, the child must be eligible for the school lunch program and reside in the Byron Forest Preserve District. The Johnsons encourage parents who feel their child would benefit from this Funship Awards Program to contact the Byron Forest Preserve Director Ed Clift at 234-8535 ext. 201 for more information.



### Program Idea?

Do you have a good idea for a program that you would like the Forest Preserve to host?

Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217.





## Ask Us About Harvesting Your Home's Equity!

It's the perfect time of year to use the equity in your home to make improvements that will increase the value of your house. This loan is convenient for large or small purchases and you do not need to reapply each time you need money. Call today 234-2561.



Byron Forest Preserve District  
7993 North River Road  
PO Box 1075  
Byron, IL 61010

PRESORT STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BYRON IL 61010  
PERMIT NO 67

POSTAL PATRON  
BYRON IL 61010