

# Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Winter/Spring 1998

## Fortune 500 Speaker Coming To Byron

### School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week March 30-April 3

While Red Ribbon Week is typically recognized in October, last summer Byron District #226 decided to move its celebration to March 30 - April 3. It was with good reason that such a decision was made. During that week, Milton Creagh, a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker, will be presenting to students and parents from Byron, Mt. Morris, Oregon, and Stillman Valley communities.

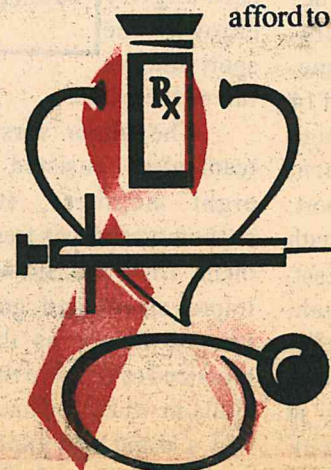
Milton Creagh is an internationally known drug prevention speaker for conferences, conventions, youth rallies and workshops. Milton has been on the public speaking circuit since the age of 17. After hearing Milton speak at a collegiate student rally in 1978, President Gerald Ford commented that he had met very few people who impressed him as Milton had.

Milton's professional and community activities have brought him many honors and awards such as: The J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for his work with teens in Atlanta, Ga.; BellSouth Services' Golden Eagle Award for

contributions to Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry; Keys to the cities of Memphis, Jackson, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Wilson, North Carolina; 1989 United States Congressional Proclamation for his work with inner city kids and the 1991 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

Besides Mr. Creagh's presentations, many other activities are being planned for that week. Student activities are being planned at each grade level throughout the district. Staff from Rosecrance, a residential substance abuse treatment center, will be doing a drug and alcohol awareness in service for all district staff. There will also be a more comprehensive training for a core team of staff at each site. This will help staff be better prepared to handle situations involving drugs and alcohol within our schools.

Mr. Creagh will be presenting to parents on **Thursday, April 2, 1998, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Byron High School gymnasium. Special thanks to Mr. Randy Vavra and his co-workers for assisting in the coordination of this week. Mark your calendars now. This is an opportunity that parents cannot afford to miss.



**Don't miss the meeting on April 2, 1998 at 7:00pm in the BHS gymnasium! Child care will be provided.**

## Chamber of Commerce Seeks Nominations

The Byron Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for their annual awards to be presented at the Chamber Annual Dinner on April 25, 1998. All nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. Nominations in more than one category must be submitted on separate forms. You may use the form on page 20 or a separate sheet of paper that includes the information below.

Nominations may be made by any individual, group, or business, and all citizens are invited to the Annual Dinner. Just call the Chamber Office at 234-5500 to make your reservations.

### Award Criteria

#### Outstanding Business Achievement Award

Represents a business organized for profit that has made a significant contribution to promote general welfare of the Byron Community or has made a significant contribution to the industry, trade or profession of the business. The recipient of this award shall be a member of the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce. The Selection Committee may consider the efforts that the business has made in development, progress and growth in the areas of commerce, industry, agriculture, education, and culture. This award shall be given annually by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

#### Outstanding Achievement Award

Represents an individual or not-for-profit organization that has contributed volunteer service to the betterment of the Byron community over a period of several years.

The selection Committee may consider the following factors:

- Business community service (e.g., Chamber, economic development, etc.)

- Civic community service (e.g., city council, fire, school, park, forest preserve, library, museum board (s))
- Church community
- Service organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, People Helping People, 4-H, Women's Club, etc.)

The recipient of this award shall epitomize volunteer service to the Byron community. This is an extraordinary award that shall be given only in the event that the Selection Committee determines such an individual or organization has contributed the requisite service and years to the community. This award is not necessarily given annually.

#### Citizen of the Year

Represents an individual that has made a significant volunteer contribution to the betterment of the Byron community in that particular year. The selection committee may consider the following factors:

- Business community service (e.g., Chamber, economic developments, etc.)
- Civic community service (e.g., city council, fire, school, park, forest preserve, library, museum board (s))
- Church community
- Service organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, Caring & Sharing, People Helping People, 4-H, Women's Club, Jaycees, etc.)

This award shall be given annually by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

See page 20 for a copy of the nomination form.

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### Check out the corresponding articles for details on the following events!

**March 3** . . . Kindergarten pre-registration for fall begins  
**March 9** . . . Sign-up for summer camps and clubs at Forest Preserve  
**March 19** . . . Preschool storyhour begins at Public Library  
**March 19, 20** . . . "Old Barn" exhibit opens at Byron Museum  
**March 21** . . . Youth Summer Baseball/Softball Registration at the Park District  
**March 22** . . . Blackhawk Trip, Byron Park District  
**April 2** . . . Mr. Milton Creagh, a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker at Byron High School  
**April 3, 4, 5** . . . Byron High School Musical "Grease"  
**April 4** . . . Illinois Adult Free Throw Championship, proceeds to the Byron Bike Path  
**April 11** . . . Erin Corday concert, Forest Preserve  
**April 25** . . . Chamber Annual Dinner  
Don't forget to save your label . . . Key Club Members Collect Campbell Soup Labels; Soft Drink Can Tabs (See article on page 7)





# Byron Forest Preserve News

7993 North River Road, Byron (815) 234-8535

Preservation • Education • Recreation



## Summer Day Camps

The Byron Forest Preserve is offering Summer Day Camps this year which will be focused on nature. Children ages 6-12 will discover fossils, watch baby bluebirds, pet a snake, swing on a vine, make musical instruments from recycled materials, go swimming, go on special field trips, and enjoy a family night with a hot dog cookout while looking at the stars in the observatory!

The camps will be held the following dates and times:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Session #1</b> | Mon.-Fri. - 9 am-4 pm - June 8-19 - \$130<br>Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - June 8-19 - \$20<br>Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - June 8-19 - \$20                   |
| <b>Session #2</b> | Mon.-Fri. - 9 am-4 pm - June 22-July 2* - \$117<br>Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - June 22-July 2* - \$18<br>Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - June 22-July 2* - \$18 |
| <b>Session #3</b> | Mon.-Fri. - 9 am-4 pm - July 6-17 - \$130<br>Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - July 6-17 - \$20<br>Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - July 6-17 - \$20                   |
| <b>Session #4</b> | Mon.-Fri. - 9 am-4 pm - July 20-31 - \$130<br>Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - July 20-31 - \$20<br>Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - July 20-31 - \$20                |

\* There will be no camp on July 3rd.



Resident registration will be held on Saturday, March 7, and nonresident registration will be held on Monday, March 9, beginning at 9 am at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Easy payment plan options are available.

These camps will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information, please call 815-234-8535.

## Adventure Club Camp

Adventure Club Camp is an outdoor club for ages 3-5. Youngsters get to explore the outdoors through hands-on activities. Kids will be able to run through the prairie and explore the woods, using arts and crafts to express their talents and feelings.

The camps will be held the following dates and times:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Camp #1</b> | Mon. & Wed. - 9-11 am - June 8, 10, 15, & 17 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 9-11 am - June 9, 11, 16 & 18 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 1-3 pm - June 9, 11, 16, & 18 - \$25                 |
| <b>Camp #2</b> | Mon. & Wed. - 9-11 am - June 22, 24, 29, & July 1 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 9-11 am - June 23, 25, 30, & July 2 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 1-3 pm - June 23, 25, 30, & July 2 - \$25 |
| <b>Camp #3</b> | Mon. & Wed. - 9-11 am - July 6, 8, 13, & 15 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 9-11 am - July 7, 9, 14, & 16 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 1-3 pm - July 7, 9, 14, & 16 - \$25                   |
| <b>Camp #4</b> | Mon. & Wed. - 9-11 am - July 20, 22, 27, & 29 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 9-11 am - July 21, 23, 28, & 30 - \$25<br>Tues. & Thurs. - 1-3 pm - July 21, 23, 28, & 30 - \$25             |



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These camps will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information, please call 815-234-8535.

## Free Kids Concerts

The Byron Forest Preserve will continue a Second Saturday Concert series using performing arts to delight the young with music, comedy, animals, storytelling, and puppets. The concerts are FREE and FUN! The spectacular area businesses sponsor the concerts for the kids so they are FREE to the public.

There is a concession stand selling juice and popcorn for .50 each, and performers usually have tapes available for purchase.

**March 14 - Michael Offutt's Science Safari for Kids - Sponsored by Quality Metal Finishing Co.**

This fast-paced 45-minute demonstration is guaranteed to be fun, educational, and memorable for all who participate...the perfect program to awaken a child's natural interest in science.

**April 11 - A Dog Show For Everyone - Sponsored by The River View Dog Club.**

A demonstration of different types of dogs and their behavior, what to look for if you want a pet, and where to get the training that makes your dog special and well behaved. Have fun just watching the dogs do great things! You can even pet a dog or two!

These great concerts are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information, please call 234-8535.

## Concerts Scheduled

The Byron Forest Preserve along with Backpack Concerts will continue the Second Saturday Concert series with the following performers:

**March 14 - Barbara Kessler**

This fabulous singer-songwriter (and new mom) will be making a rare Midwestern appearance. Guaranteed great stuff!!

**April 11 - Erin Corday**

Certain to become an audience favorite. Erin's unique song-stylings will keep you glued to your seat. Plan to be humming these tunes for weeks.

**May 9 - Kat Eggleston**

Simply one of the finest writers and performers we know. Kat returns to dazzle us with her music.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. The tickets cost \$8 each. For tickets or more information, please call 815-234-8535.



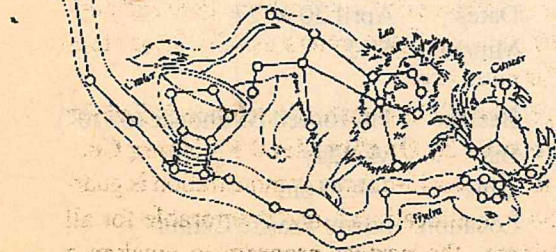
## Star Notes

As March proceeds, the light of the Milky Way rides high in the sky and several of the Zodiac constellations reign supreme. The bright stars of Taurus, Gemini, and Leo grace the skies and the light of the Beehive Cluster, Praesepe, draws the eye to the dimmer shape of Cancer, the Crab. Orion and his faithful hunting dog, Canis Major, stride across the sky farther south. March gives us the best time to view the planet Mercury for 1998. If the weather cooperates, Mercury should be visible for the two weeks preceding March 20, early in the evening after the sun sets in the west.

April brings us the Lyrid Meteor shower, visible from the 16th through the 25th, with a peak on Wednesday the 22nd. These meteors will be most visible after 10:30 pm and into the early morning hours. April also brings the return of Virgo, the Virgin, and the Virgo cluster of galaxies. Hydra (below left), the largest constellation, snakes its way up over the southern horizon below Leo and Virgo.

May comes with warmer weather and a later setting sun. Now dropping into the west, Gemini prepares to bid us farewell until next November. Hercules, the strong man, makes his return to the evening skies and so does Vega, the first of the summer triangle stars. This is a good time of year for galaxy hunting. The area between Ursa Major, Virgo, and Leo abounds in deep sky objects if the sky is dark, clear and calm and the hunter is patient.

Public viewing nights are on the first and third Saturdays and second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Observatory is closed if it is cloudy. Please call 815-234-8535 to confirm viewing conditions. Sessions start about dusk and last until about 10 pm and are free. Please dress for the weather as the dome is not heated.



The Weiskopf Observatory is also available for private tours. The program includes fun and interesting activities relating to constellations, the solar system, stars and star movements, telescopes and constellation myths. Cost is \$2 per person and tours can be arranged by calling Lisa at 815-234-8535 ext. 232.

## Gift Shop News

The gift shop at the Jarrett Prairie Center has new items arriving daily. There are many gift ideas for children's birthdays, holidays, and any other occasion. Some gift specials are already wrapped!

The Bluebird, Bat, Ladybug, and Painted Butterfly houses are handcrafted by the volunteers at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

New additions to the gift shop include puzzles, star charts, sand creatures, animal stampers, snakes, and many new books. These would make great gifts!

Gift shop specials include \$5 off *Illinois-Seasons of Light* book, '98 *Illinois* calendars reduced to \$5.50, select books are 50% off, and if you mention this article, you get an additional 10% off any \$10 or more purchase.

Be sure to visit the Jarrett Prairie Center's gift shop for your next special gift need!

## Art Comes to Jarrett Prairie Center

The Byron Forest Preserve will be hosting a series of art and natural history collection exhibits throughout 1998. The exhibits will be on display at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Local artists and collectors will bring in their favorite things to be enjoyed by everyone.

Subjects will range from wildlife paintings, Native American landscapes, and nature photography to Native American artifacts. Some paintings and prints will be for sale, and special times will be set up for artists and exhibitors to meet their public.

Exhibitors and artists include:

**M. Dale Allison, Wildlife Illustrator**  
April 19-May 30  
Reception - April 26, 2-3 pm

**Joel Bowling, Prehistoric American Artifacts**  
June 6-29  
Reception - June 21, 2-3 pm

**Elizabeth Foster, Nature Photographer**  
August 1-31  
Reception - August 9, 2-4 pm

**Ellwood Wingert, Native American Artifacts**  
September 5-27  
Reception - Sept. 13, 2-3 pm

**Jeanne Rager, Rager Art Gallery**  
October 1-8  
Reception - October 4, 1-4 pm

Don't miss this chance to join us as we celebrate the wonders of nature in art!

## Museum Metamorphosis Phase IV

AHHH, you can almost hear the sound of the wind in the leaves, the birds chirping, the splash of a fish jumping. This is the effect we hope to get with the new wetland exhibit.

As of January 19th, it didn't look like much except a pile of lumber, but when completed, we hope to have recreated a piece of a pond.

Beavers will work busily about their den. Fish, ducks, and an otter will swim through the water, and a Great Blue Heron will stalk the shallows. Many other small creatures will take up residence in this area, showing the variety of life to be found where water and land meet.

Volunteer taxidermist, Jim Hess, has already completed several of the animals needed for this exhibit and is working on more.

Staff members Lisa Johnson and Laurie Conner are pretending to be carpenters while building the base.

We hope to make a completion date in April with a grand opening scheduled for April 26, to coincide with Earth Week. Mark this date on your calendar. There will be activities for the whole family, plus a look at our latest creation. Join us as we show off our new wetland!

## Banquets

Need a beautiful place to hold your graduation party or your next social or business occasion?

The Jarrett Prairie Center has several rooms available for rental at reasonable rates.

The Prairie View room, overlooking the splendors of nature in all seasons, the Blazingstar Room, and the Indigo Room are all located in the Jarrett Prairie Center.

These banquet rooms are available for seminars, family reunions, outdoor education classes, group tours, and a variety of other uses.

The Jarrett Prairie Center accommodates up to 250 people. Full bar service is available.

There are also two picnic shelters available. The shelters include tables, electricity, water, grills, and handicap accessible restrooms.

Plus, you and your guests will enjoy the priceless natural beauty of the Byron Forest Preserve.

If you would like more information, please call Robin at 815-234-8535 ext. 200.



~ Programs ~

Secrets of the Night Sky

Ever wonder how the constellations got their names? Would you like to buy a telescope, but don't know what to look for? How about showing your kids the wonders of the universe? Then these programs are for you. Register now!

March 17 - Winter Constellations

*Auriga, Orion, Taurus, Canis Major, Canis Minor, Gemini - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.*

April 21 - Stars

*Betelgeuse, Rigel, Arcturus, Sirius, Algol, Aldebaran - What is a star, different types of stars, life cycle of a star.*

May 19 - Spring Constellations

*Cancer, Leo, Hydra, Virgo, Corvus, Crater - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.*

June 16 - Telescopes

*Different types: refractor, reflector, catadioptric  
Different mounts: alt/azimuth, dobsonian, equatorial - How do they work.*

July 21 - Late Spring Constellations

*Bootes, Hercules, Corona Borealis, Ophiucus - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.*

August 18 - Center of the Galaxy-Nebula

*Lagoon, Triffid, Ring, Dumbbell, Omega - What are nebula, different types of nebula.*

September 15 - Summer Constellations

*Aquila, Lyra, Cygnus, Scorpio, Sagittarius - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.*

October 20 - Planets

*What is a planet, how was it formed, different types of planets, how does the solar system work.*

November 17 - Fall Constellations

*Pegasus, Andromeda, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cepheus - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.*

Day: Tuesdays  
Time: 6:30-8 pm  
Location: Weiskopf Observatory  
Fee: \$2 per person - \$10 family max.  
Dates: Listed above  
Age: 5 years and up  
Min/Max: 3/20  
(Guarantee your spot, register now!)

Stepping Out

The Prairie Preserve presents an ever-changing palette of life and color. Join us for an opportunity to experience the great outdoors.

Take an easy walk through the prairies and savanna of the Prairie Preserve to look for and learn to identify resident and migratory birds and early spring wildflowers.

Warm clothes, comfortable walking shoes/boots, and binoculars are recommended. Call (815) 234-8535 to register.

Days: Saturdays  
Time: 8-10am  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: Free  
Dates: Feb. 28, Mar. 28, & Apr. 25  
Min/Max: 3/20

Creative Memories

Safe and creative photo albums. Are your photos not being displayed or enjoyed because they are gathering dust in shoeboxes...or worse, are they being stored in albums that are destroying the images they should be protecting? Come and learn how to put together creative, long-lasting family photo albums-the kind of albums that safeguard their memories and provide enjoyment for generations to come. With Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, and weddings approaching, an album about those special people would make a unique and special gift they will enjoy for years to come. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Beginners Classes

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Day: Saturday  
Time: 9 am-4 pm  
Fee: \$20  
Date: February 28  
Min/Max: 8/20

Day: Tuesday  
Time: 6-10 pm  
Fee: \$10  
Date: March 24  
Min/Max: 8/20

Day: Tuesday  
Date: April 21  
Time: 6-10 pm  
Fee: \$10

Continuing Classes

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Day: Saturday  
Time: 9 am-4 pm  
Fee: \$15  
Date: February 28  
Min/Max: 8/20

Day: Tuesday  
Time: 6-10 pm  
Fee: \$5  
Date: March 24  
Min/Max: 8/20

Day: Tuesday  
Time: 6-10 pm  
Fee: \$5  
Date: April 21  
Min/Max: 8/20

Ranger Rick

Discover the outdoors and nature's impact on everyday living through hands-on activities and exploring the woods and prairies. Bus service is provided from Byron Schools. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Dates: 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
Time: 3:30-5:30 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: \$12 per month  
Age: Kindergarten thru fourth grade

Basketweaving

Come and make your own seasonal baskets for adult beginners and up. Fee includes all supplies. A few small tools from home will be needed. Baskets to be made will be on display at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop two weeks prior to the class. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Basket: Springtime Tulip Basket (10x10")  
Days: Mondays  
Time: 7-9 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: \$28  
Dates: March 2 & 9  
Min/Max: 5/12

Basket: Sturdy Storage Basket (10x15")  
Days: Mondays  
Time: 7-9 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: \$38  
Dates: April 20 & 27  
Min/Max: 5/12

Basket: Tin-roofed Birdhouse (6x10")  
Day: Monday  
Time: 7-9:30 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: \$24  
Date: May 4  
Min/Max: 5/12

Basket: Divided Gardener's Tote (12x12")  
Days: Mondays  
Time: 7-9 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: \$35  
Dates: June 8 & 15  
Min/Max: 5/12

Bald Eagles

Mr. Larry O'Neil will present a program about Bald Eagles - *The Wonders and Mysteries of Eagles*. You will learn where and how they live, and watch a video Mr. O'Neil made over several years of working with and around eagles. To register, please call (815) 234-8535.

Day: Thursday  
Time: 7-8 pm  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Fee: Free  
Date: March 26  
Min/Max: 5/50

Aerobics

This is a fat-burning, steady state workout that uses step height and arm movements to set your aerobic intensity.

Days: Mon., Wed., & Thurs.  
Time: 9:30-10:30 am  
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Co-sponsored by Byron Park District. Please see their section for more details.



Volunteer News...

On The Go!

Volunteer Coordinator, Lori Diehl, has kept the volunteers very busy doing projects for the Education Department, Earthkeepers and Ranger Rick, having volunteers staff the Observatory, Second Saturday Concerts, and Special Winter Events. Those interested in working in the woodshop or attending Tuesday mornings, please call 234-8535 ext. 203 for more details.

Painting Class

Christina Hall will demonstrate how to paint decorative butterfly houses mid-spring, for more information, call 234-8535 ext. 203. Meetings are tentatively set for Tuesday mornings in the Blazingstar Room. Join the volunteers!

Dinner Theatre Trip

Volunteers and the Byron Community are invited to attend a trip to White Pines Dinner Theatre on Thursday, May 14. The show, *The Silver Foxettes*, begins at noon. The cost is \$21 per person. Price will include dinner, theatre, and bus transportation. For more details, call Lori, 234-8535 ext. 203.

Concerts

Do you enjoy music, drama, and fun-filled activities? Second Saturday Concerts are just for you! We need volunteers to work the concessions for both the daytime and evening performance.

It's loads of fun. Plus, volunteers get free admission to the concerts! The evening concerts are from 8-10:30 pm.

Please call Lori at 234-8535 ext 203.

Schedule of Second Saturday Concerts:

March 14

Michael Offuts Science Safari - 3-4 pm - Free  
Al Day Trio - 8 pm - \$8

April 11

Dog Show for Everyone - 3-4 pm - Free  
Barbara Kessler - 8 pm - \$8

May 9

Kat Eggleston - 8 pm - \$8

Woodworking

Robert White will teach interested men and women how to properly use woodworking equipment in the Jarrett Prairie Center woodshop.

This volunteer class will begin Tuesday, February 10, from 9:30-11 am. We will construct sand containers, birdhouses, and other small projects for the Byron Forest Preserve.

Maybe you've always wanted to join us in the woodshop and have skills you could share. We need you!

Call Lori, 234-8535 ext. 203, for more details.

Volunteer Schedule

If you would like to volunteer at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center or PrairieView Golf Course, please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Hopefully, one of the following meeting times will fit into your schedule, or you can set up a different time with Lori:

Tuesday Morning Meetings - 8:30-11:30 am  
Tuesday Morning Woodshop - 9-11:30 am  
Tuesday Afternoon Woodshop - 1:30-4:30 pm  
Thursday Woodshop - 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Helloooo Out There

Perhaps your area interests are more celestial. Do you enjoy star gazing? Volunteers are needed in the observatory to greet and explain to others who share this interest. If you are interested, please call Lori, 234-8535 ext.203.

Earthkeepers

Susan Kleiman, Laurie Connor, and Lisa Johnson educate children about Earth's cycle of life and how to help young people live in harmony with the earth. The program lasts for a few hours each day. Those who would enjoy helping supervise class field trips, please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Hole in One!

The golf course will be opening sometime in mid March if the weather cooperates. Volunteers will be needed to sand and repaint the golf carts, fill divots, paint stakes, and build sand containers. Are you interested? Please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Ranger Rick

This wonderful program is designed to educate children in kindergarten through fourth grade in the discovery of how nature impacts our world by participating in hands-on activities at the Prairie Center.

Ranger Rick meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3:30-5:30 pm. Do you love exploring the great outdoors? Volunteers are needed to help the children explore. If you would like to volunteer for any of these times, please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Marquetry Class

Howard Fox will teach marquetry to those interested in learning. This class will be open to the general public on Tuesdays, 6-8 pm, beginning March 31. Call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203 for more details.

Crafters Needed!!

The Byron Forest Preserve is looking for people interested in selling their hand-made crafts and unique items at the Seventh Annual Craft Show.

The craft show is held at the Jarrett Prairie Center and offers over 35 exhibitors with a wide variety of unique crafts.

If you are interested in reserving a booth at the Seventh Annual Craft Show, call Robin at 815-234-8535 ext. 200.

Want to be a Wild One?

The Byron Forest Preserve currently sponsors the Rock River Chapter of the Wild Ones Natural Landscaping Club. This is a group of people who is interested in landscaping with native plants.

Native plants are adapted to local weather and soil conditions and require less maintenance, chemicals and water than exotic species. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife, such as many beautiful birds and butterflies.

Programs and field trips are geared toward learning about native plants, what they look like and how to grow them, as well as sources for seeds and plants. The following meetings have been scheduled:

February 19 - Spring Fever - 6:30-8:30 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center

March 19 - Let Heaven and Nature Sing - 6:30-8:30 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center

April 16 - How To Photograph Plants - 6:30-8:30 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center

May 21 - Woodland Walk and Slide Show - 6:30-8:30 pm at Severson Dells Environmental Center

So, if you want to be a Wild One, please call Lisa at 815-234-8535 ext. 232.

Public Hours

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum & Gift Shop

Sunday - 1 - 4 pm  
Monday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Tuesday - 8:30 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Thursday - 8:30 am - 8 pm  
Friday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Saturday - 9 am - 4 pm

The prairie preserve will be open for winter sports, weather permitting.

The Warming House will be open:  
Saturday-9 am-4 pm and Sunday-1-4 pm  
Holidays and "No School" days  
10 am - 4 pm



## PrairieView Golf Course News

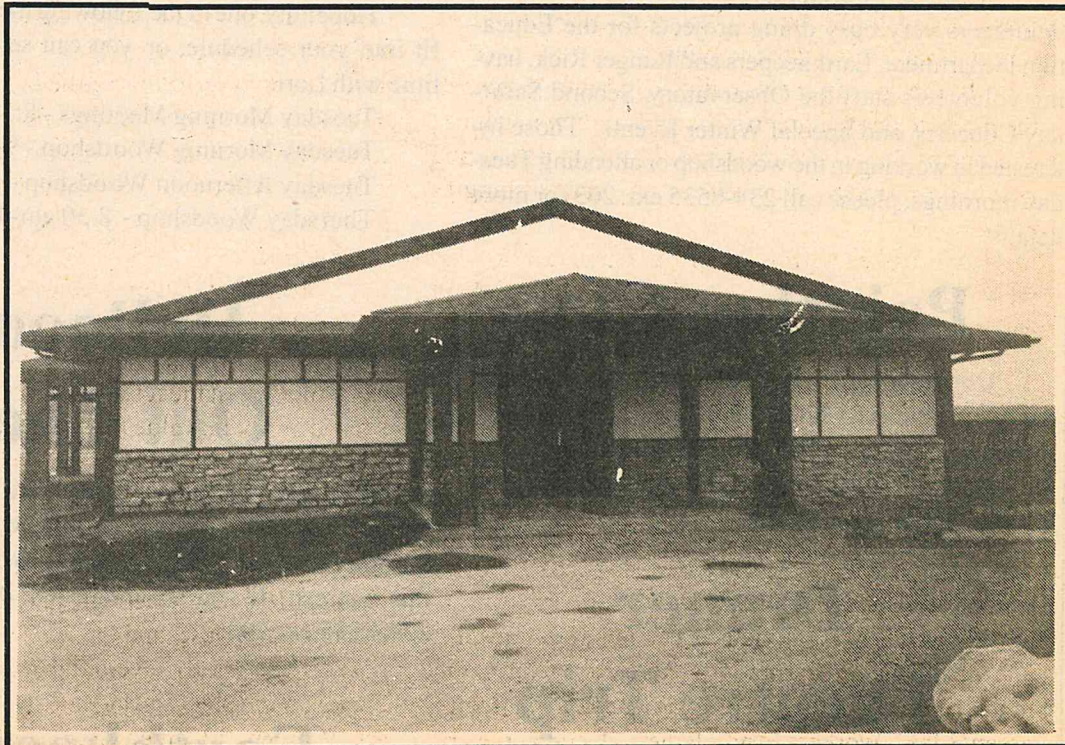
North German Church Road, Byron (815) 234-GOLF(4653)

# New Clubhouse Grand Opening!

After several years of planning and months of construction, PrairieView's new, expanded clubhouse will be ready to open soon! The staff at PrairieView believe our golfers will be highly pleased with the new clubhouse and all of the amenities it has to offer.

Outwardly, PrairieView's newly renovated clubhouse has a somewhat familiar appearance to the old clubhouse. Walk in through one of the three attractive new covered entrances, however, and be ready for a big surprise. Golfers will be greeted with spacious new locker rooms, wide clubhouse corridors, a much expanded concession area with many more menu selections, a large dining room that seats 60, and finally, a much larger, well-stocked golf shop. Other amenities will include lower level club storage and major physical upgrades such as a greatly improved air conditioning system.

We invite everyone to come out for our official clubhouse grand opening tentatively scheduled for mid-late March! Over the next few weeks, watch for upcoming announcements and news releases for the exact time and date. Thank you for your past patronage as we look forward to another great golf season!



## PVGC Goes "Spikeless"

Beginning this season, PrairieView will institute a policy to phase out and ultimately ban "metal" golf spikes at our facility. The trend towards going "spikeless" is industry-wide and gaining momentum due to the many benefits, the primary one being much improved putting green surfaces.

PrairieView golfers are being asked to voluntarily wear nonmetal spikes when the course opens in late March. However, starting June 15, only alternative, nonmetal type golf spikes or tennis shoes will be permitted. PrairieView will continue to sell the "SOFTSPIKE" brand of nonmetal spikes at slightly above our cost throughout the year. Any 1998 season passholder who has not picked up their free set of "SOFTSPIKES" can stop by starting Friday, March 6 when regular Mon.-Sat. hours of operation resume.

## Coupon Book

Look for PrairieView's new coupon book for 1998 on sale at the new clubhouse this spring.

We offer pages and pages of coupons for discounted green fees, cart rental, range balls, lessons, and much more. The new 1998 coupon books will also make great gifts for special occasions.

Come out by March 22 to renew your photo ID, season pass, or redeem your gift certificate and receive a special coupon book bonus!

## Discount Cards & ID's

District residents and others are reminded that PrairieView will begin sales and renewals of all passes, discount cards, and "VIP" vouchers, including photo ID's during special hours in March.

Please bring along your old photo ID card as we will be able to reissue the same card and number in many instances. Individuals who purchased gift certificates at the special reduced rates before the holidays must redeem their gift certificates by March 22 in order to qualify for the special rate.

## Hours of Operation

PrairieView Clubhouse will resume regular hours starting Friday, March 6, to sell passes and VIP vouchers, renew ID cards, and sign up for club storage, etc.

**Preseason regular hours**

**until the course opens:**

**Beginning March 6**

**9 am - 5 pm**

**Monday - Saturday**

Tentative course opening date is March 20, weather permitting. Please call 815-234-GOLF (4653) for current course conditions.

## Golf Lessons

Don't forget to schedule an early season tune-up for your golf swing. Brand new beginners may also be interested in PrairieView's adult group beginner's clinics that begin in early May.

Beginner clinics are taught by PGA Pro Ken Ledene and are scheduled in early evenings, or private lessons may be scheduled to accommodate your busy schedule. Stop by the clubhouse in late March for more information and specific dates and times.

## Jr. Clinics

Plans for this summer's Junior Golf Program are under way. As many of you know, there is a huge interest in golf among the youth in this area. Approximately 120 juniors took part in the youth program in 1997.

Again, we plan a series of clinics designed specifically for junior golfers—from beginners to more advanced players with on-course experience. We also had juniors playing on leagues last season and expect participation to increase.

This year, as in previous years, we have a need for interested adult and junior volunteers to donate time to our junior golfers. As the number of youths participating in our programs increases, our need for your assistance increases also. Please make an effort to commit to volunteering so that we may succeed and maintain the level of last year's programs.

If anyone can volunteer, or has any ideas or suggestions to enhance PrairieView's youth golf program, please call Ken Ledene at 815-234-GOLF. Look for further announcements in early April when junior golf lesson registration will begin. Let's all help ensure that our successful youth golf program continues to grow.



Turf Notes

By Steve Storz, Golf Superintendent

Because the Byron Forest Preserve's Capital Construction crews completed so many projects at PrairieView in 1997, I would like to present to you a quick review of the year's major accomplishments before outlining our goals for 1998.

In the spring, crews built two shelters, one near the practice putting green to house vending machines, and one at the driving range tee which contains pop, golf ball dispensers plus ball storage and washing facilities.

As weather warmed, construction of new forward tees began. Tees 7, 11, and 12 were completed and should open for play by May of 1998. Crews also built a series of moguls in the right and the left rough along 6 fairway. Construction began on forward 6, 15, and 2 tees.

During the growing season, 32,000 container-grown prairie plants were installed at various locations near the front door sign, the clubhouse entrance, 1 and 9 greens, 7/11 fairways, and 8 tee. In August, 760 tons of sand were added to PrairieView's bunkers.

This fall, we contracted a tree spade to transplant 33 trees (4 deciduous and 29 evergreens) on the course in the 10 green/11 tee, 9 tee/8 green area, and around 2 green/3 tee. Workers hand planted 11 crabapples behind 18 green.

Feste and Company built concrete wall stone planters at 1, 4, 5, 6, 11, and 17 tees. Capital workers supplied the backhoe work and materials. At 8, 13, and 15 tees, the crews constructed limestone planters. Two limestone planters in the clubhouse parking lot were removed. The mature prairie plants in them plus several hundred purple coneflowers donated by Diane Balch were transplanted into new planters near the clubhouse entrance, 6, 15, and 17 tees. Crews completed shrub and perennial plantings near 1 and 10 tees.



Season Passes

By 3-22-98 / After 3-22-98

Resident - Single	
Adult	\$395 / \$425
Senior	\$250 / \$275
Junior	\$75 / \$100
College Student	\$140 / \$165

Resident - Couple/Family	
Adult	\$595 / \$625
Senior	\$395 / \$425

Out of District - Single	
Adult	\$515 / \$545
Senior	\$325 / \$350
Junior	\$110 / \$130
College Student	\$195 / \$220

Out of District - Couple/Family	
Adult	\$725 / \$775
Senior	\$525 / \$575

\* Restrictions may apply to certain pass categories.

During January and February of 1998, capital crews reorganized and repainted the interior of the old Park Maintenance building. Included was the construction of new combined Maintenance/Restoration offices. This will streamline maintenance operations, make them more cost effective, while allowing the department to serve the public better.

As soon as weather permits, work will begin to complete the landscaping around PrairieView's newly enlarged clubhouse. This includes construction of a patio on the south lawn overlooking the 10th tee and the 9th green.

Crews will begin once more to build new forward tees. The general order of priority is 6, 15, 2, 16, 1, 10, 5, 18, 8, and 17. We will continue to build stone planters at the remaining tee areas. These planters add aesthetic value to our tee accessory areas and eliminate costly hand trimming.

On the planting scene, the Byron Forest Preserve will transplant more large trees for safety, aesthetic, and screening purposes. Proposed locations involve the 1 tee/10 green/9 tee/8 green area, 15 fairway, clubhouse, pumphouse, and the front door sign area. Proposed locations for several thousand more container-grown prairie plants include many of the new tee planters, 9 green, 13 green, and along German Church Road.

It is our hope that through these construction projects, we can more fully develop the great potential of PrairieView Golf Course, and that it can become a truly notable facility, providing a safe, environmentally pleasing, challenging golf experience to all who come here to play.

'98 Golf Fees

	Weekend/ Holiday 9/18 holes	Weekday Mon.-Fri. 9/18 holes
Daily Green Fee:	\$16 / \$26	\$14 / \$21
County*	14 / 22	12 / 18
Resident*	11 / 18	9 / 14
Senior**		
Daily	--	\$12 / \$17
County*	--	10 / 14
Resident*	--	6 / 10
Junior**		
Daily	\$12 / \$14	\$10 / \$13
County*	10 / 12	8 / 10
Resident*	6 / 8	6 / 6
4 PM Twilight		
Daily	\$16	\$14
County*	14	12
Resident*	8	8
5:30 Twilight		
Daily	\$14	\$12
County*	12	10
Resident*	6	6

\*Ogle County or Byron resident rates with resident I.D. cards only.

\*\*Senior/junior rates: before 3 pm weekdays and junior rates after 3 pm weekends/holidays. Seniors 60 & over and juniors 18 & under by 10-31-98.

'98 "VIP" Voucher Program

PrairieView is offering its unique "VIP" discount program again in 1998. Initially offered in 1995, this program has become very popular with PrairieView golfers. We offer the convenience of a "debit card," similar to a "check card," but with huge savings on green fees, cart rental, and range practice balls. The "VIP" cards can also be used on all daily clubhouse cash purchases such as concessions, pro shop merchandise, lessons, etc.

In addition to resident discounts, the "VIP" program offers discounts of up to 20%, cart discounts up to 30%, and range discounts up to 50%. Each new card provides you with daily savings for up to two full golf seasons.

'98 "VIP" Voucher Prices

Plan Level Number	Selected \$ Voucher Purchase Price	Green Fee Discount	Cart Discount	Range Ball Discount	Early Bird Purchase Price by 3-22-98
1	\$100	0%	0%	40%	\$95
2	\$200	5%	15%	50%	\$190
3	\$300	10%	20%	50%	\$285
4	\$450	15%	25%	50%	\$427.50
5	\$600	20%	30%	50%	\$570