

Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Winter/Spring 2000

Byron C.U.S.D. #226 Announces Fall 2000 Kindergarten Pre-Registration Date Set

Registration for Kindergarten 2000 will begin on Wednesday, March 1. To register your child, please call Mary Morgan School K-2 - 234-5491, ext. 757, with your child's name, address, phone number and birthdate. All children must be five years old by September 1, 2000.



Byron Chamber Hosts Annual Dinner

The Byron Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Dinner on Saturday April 15, 2000, at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Events for the evening will be a silent auction and the announcements of the annual community awards. To make reservations or for more information please call the Chamber office at 234-5500.

Mary Morgan Students Participate in Knowledge Master

Thousands of students from practically every state and several countries competed January 19, 2000 in the 22nd Elementary Knowledge Master Open academic competition. The teams, generally consisting of fifth and sixth grade students, used computers to answer 100 challenging questions from all curriculum areas.

The team of fourth and fifth grade students from Mary Morgan School in Byron scored 691 of 1000 possible points, ranking them as seventh in the nation and second in the state of Illinois among the 330 fifth grade teams.

Mary Morgan School has participated in this event for the last ten years and although they consistently are in the top ten percent of participating schools, this is only the second time that they have made it into the top ten schools in the nation.

Students on the team included: Whitney Barlow, Steven Cichon, Jeff Enge, Jenna Greenlee, Lindsey Hefel, Dillon Herbig, Jordan Kuehne, Nick Ludwig, Mandi Moreland, Rachel Niederer, Ben Rambow, Dan Rambow, Zack Rasmussen, Michael Rozum, Rachel Sible, Kevin Wendt, Christina Winter and Ashley Wittemeyer. Absent team members; Aaron Deets and Kelsey Wild. Their academic coach is Kris Bomgarden. The team will compete again near the end of March in the Spring 2000 KMO.

The Knowledge Master open is designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. Two contests are run each year on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. Results are tabulated into overall, state and enrollment-size rankings by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado publishing firm that hosts the event.

BYRONfest Seeking Volunteers

ByronFest 2000 is scheduled for July 7, 8, and 9, and the steering committee has been busy planning and preparing for this festival since August of 1999. This festival takes over 300 volunteers to operate the event for three days. If you are interested in becoming involved with the "behind the scenes action," please call the Chamber office at 234-5500.

We have many areas you can be involved with stuffing envelopes, counting t-shirts, selling buttons and tickets, security, children's area volunteers.... The list is endless and we need YOU. Don't wait; call today at 234-5500 and work with the greatest festival in the area!!!

PrairieView Golf Course 2000 Opening Day!

Just like most of you, PrairieView clubhouse staff are anxiously awaiting opening day of the new 2000 golf season. Fortunately, another exceptionally mild November - January period has made the wait much easier to bear again this year.

For the last three years, favorable weather and ground conditions have allowed PrairieView to open the course for play in late March. Our targeted opening date this year is Monday, March 20. Early season golfers are encouraged to call the course at 234-GOLF starting March 6 for current course conditions and a possible earlier opening date.

As in past years, PrairieView golfers will see many improvements both on the course and in and around the clubhouse during the 2000 golf season. The list is long but a few notable items include the following: conversion of the concession shelter between #5 and #14 to standard men's and women's restrooms; completion of the new short game practice area including three new greens; major tree plantings on holes #8, #9, #10, and #18; many new white, blue, and red golf tees open for play; and construction of new driving range tees on both the north and south ends! The rebuilding of #11 green is also still being considered and construction may start as early as the fall.

As you can see, PrairieView continues to get better and better every year. Come out early and don't forget to take advantage of free green fees with cart rental during Customer Appreciation Week from April 10-14 (season passholders receive free cart rentals all week)! The entire clubhouse staff looks forward to serving you and your friends for another fun season of golf at PrairieView.

Byron Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards

The Byron Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its annual awards for the following categories: Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Business Achievement and Outstanding Achievement. Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office and must be submitted by March 24, 2000.

Criteria for each award have been established and a committee from the Byron Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will make the final selections.

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 board, museum board (s))
- Church community
- Service organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, People Helping People, 4-H, Women's Club, etc.)

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors shall give this award annually.

Check out the Summer Activities for Kids!

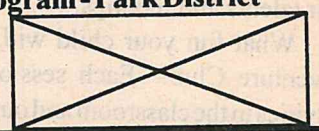
Summer Day Camp - Forest Preserve
Adventure Club - Forest Preserve

Call - 234-8535

Baseball/Softball - Park District

Summer Youth Program - Park District

Call - 234-8435



Outstanding Business Achievement Award

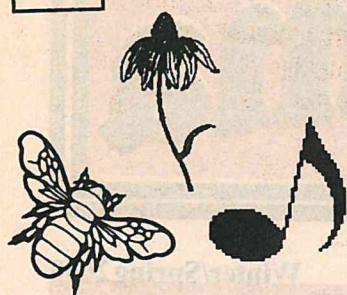
Represents a business organized for profit that has made a significant contribution to promote the general welfare of the Byron community or has made a significant contribution to the industry, trade or profession of the business. The recipient of this award shall be a member of the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce. The selection committee may consider the efforts the business has made in development, progress and growth in the areas of commerce, industry, agriculture, education and culture.

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors shall give this award annually.

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Byron Forest Preserve News

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

www.byronillinois.org

Preservation • Education • Recreation



From the Desk of the Director: Ed Clift

Day Camps

Greetings! The staff at the Byron Forest Preserve has been very busy planning another exciting summer for your children who participate in Day Camp and/or Adventure Club programs. This should be the best summer yet for both of these outstanding programs.

Summer Day Camp is going into its fifth year and all plans indicate another great year! The program will be filled with all new crafts, games, outdoor activities, field trips (four per session), and some new faces as camp counselors. If you want to have fun, well hold onto your hats, because this year will be great fun!

If you like to play outdoors, go swimming, go sight-seeing, play and spend time with other kids your age, then the Byron Forest Preserve Summer Day Camps are the place you should be this summer.

This camp is geared for children ages 6-12. The objective of this program is for youth to learn about their environment in an outdoor setting, focusing on preservation, education, recreation, and FUN!

Camps are two-week sessions, Monday through Friday from 9am - 4pm. Camp fees include four field trips per session and morning and afternoon snacks.

Adventure Club is an outdoor club for ages 3-5. Youngsters will 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.

What fun your child will have this summer at Adventure Club! Each session will be filled with activities in the classroom and outdoors. Your child will get to roll down hills, jump through hula hoops, and have a lot of fun.

Adventure Club meets on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, 9-11 am or 1-3 pm. Each session is two weeks. The cost is \$25 per session.

Sound like fun? Then stop in at the Jarrett Prairie Center and register now! For more information, please call 234-8535 ext. 200.

Thanks for your time, and we look forward to seeing all of you.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Clift, Executive Director

Wish List

We can always use more ideas and items for programs and displays. We focus on things native to this area before the arrival of the settlers. Especially useful items are:

- Old and new Ranger Rick magazines-may be cut up
- Old and new My Big Backyard-also may be cut up
- Volunteers for Observatory-must like working nights and working with kids, interest in stars a plus, knowledge not necessary, we will train.
- A laminating machine-must handle at least 9"x11 1/2" sheets
- Astronomy books/magazines
- Nature books
- Volunteers to help preschool children with computer programs

Adventure Club - Ages 3-5

The camps will be held on the following dates and times:

Session #1	Mon. & Wed.	9-11am or 1-3pm	June 5, 7, 12, & 14	\$25
	Tues. & Thurs.	9-11am or 1-3pm	June 6, 8, 13, & 15	\$25
Session #2	Mon. & Wed.	9-11am or 1-3pm	June 19, 21, 26, & 28	\$25
	Tues. & Wed.	9-11am or 1-3pm	June 20, 22, 27, & 29	\$25
Session #3	Mon. & Wed.	9-11am or 1-3pm	July 3, 5, 10, & 12	\$25
	Tues. & Thurs.	9-11am or 1-3pm	July 6, 11, & 13*	\$18.75
Session #4	Mon. & Wed.	9-11am or 1-3pm	July 17, 19, 24, & 26	\$25
	Tues. & Thurs.	9-11am or 1-3pm	July 18, 20, 25 & 27	\$25

Summer Day Camp - Ages 6-12

The camps will be held the following dates and times:

Session #1	June 5-16	Mon.-Fri.	9am-4pm	\$130
		Latchkey	7-9am	\$20
		Latchkey	4-6pm	\$20
Session #2	June 19-30	Mon.-Fri.	9am-4pm	\$130
		Latchkey	7-9am	\$20
		Latchkey	4-6pm	\$20
Session #3	July 3-14*	Mon.-Fri.	9am-4pm	\$117
		Latchkey	7-9am	\$18
		Latchkey	4-6pm	\$18
Session #4	July 17-28	Mon.-Fri.	9am-4pm	\$130
		Latchkey	7-9am	\$20
		Latchkey	4-6pm	\$20
Session #5	Jul. 31-Aug. 11	Mon.-Fri.	9am-4pm	\$130
		Latchkey	7-9am	\$20
		Latchkey	4-6pm	\$20

*There will be no camp on July 4.

Ranger Rick Club

There is still time to join Ranger Rick Club this year! We will be running Ranger Rick Club for first through fifth graders until April 27. The kids in the club have a great time learning about nature and playing games in the outdoors. In March we will be studying "Pollution," including putting on an outdoor play on the subject. Then in April we will be looking into "Wetlands." What an exciting place full of strange and unusual things! You don't have to know a lot about nature to join Ranger Rick Club. You just have to want to find out and be willing to have fun doing it!

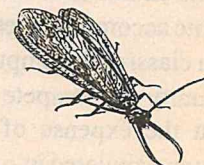
Ranger Rick Club meets on Thursdays after school from 3:30 till 5:30. It only costs \$25 per month and you can sign up for one month or as many as you like. We meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center (that's the building at the top of the hill at the Byron Forest Preserve). We hope you can join us; there is always room for a few new friends.

Museum Search

We continue to add new things to the Jarrett Prairie Center's natural history museum. See if you can find these things. You'll have to look up, down and all around to find all of them.

- A Red-phase Screech Owl
- A young raccoon in a precarious position
- A third Canada Goose which joined our flock
- A resting dragonfly
- Good luck with your hunt.

You should also check out the new museum scrap book, located on the corner of the prairie. It chronicles the early years of the museum and it's exhibits. Compare these early photos with what we have now. What a difference!



***There will be no camp on July 4.**
When registering, a \$100 deposit is required to hold the camp session(s). The deposit will be applied to the total balance due for the last session. All other fees are due the Friday before each session begins. Ninety percent of the full registration fee paid will be refunded if a Refund Request Form is received **before** April 15. Fifty percent of the full registration fee paid will be refunded if a Refund Request Form is received **after** April 15.

★ STAR NOTES

As March approaches, 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 in the southwest. This is a good time of year for open star clusters. Auriga, Gemini and Canis Major hold groups of stars visible in a telescope.

In April as the weather turns warmer, the winter constellations Taurus, Orion and Canis Major are quickly disappearing in the west, while Leo stands overhead and Bootes and Hercules rise in the east. April also brings the return of Virgo, the Virgin, and the Virgo cluster of galaxies. Hydra, the largest constellation, snakes it's 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, climbs higher in the sky, followed by 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 hunters 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 dark and last until about 10 p.m. 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 \$2.00 per person and tours can be arranged by calling Lisa at the above number, extension 232.

Wildlife in Wood May 6-June 25

Woodcutting artist, Shanasy Bratt, will display her distinctive wall hangings of North American wildlife. Ms. Bratt works in many different kinds of wood, including Birch and Maple and Walnut burl. Her visions of wildlife and forest scenery are cut into the wood pieces in a rustic "Northwoods" style that would compliment many decors. An artist reception is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, from 2:00-3:30pm. It is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Help us to welcome Ms. Bratt to the Byron area and take a moment to meet this talented artist.

Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 N. River Rd.
Byron - 234-8535
**20th Anniversary
Celebration**
1980-2000
Saturday, July 22, 2000
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Public Skyviewing

Explore the wonders of the night sky, stars, constellations, nebula, and many other sights that wait to delight. The observatory is closed if it is cloudy so call ahead to confirm viewing conditions, 815-234-8535. Benefits: increased sense of adventure, new perspectives, and broader horizons.

Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Days: Tuesdays and Saturdays
Time: Dusk - 10pm
Fee: Free
Dates: March 4, 14, 18, 28 -
April 1, 11, 15, 25
May 6, 9, 20, 23
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson



Backyard Astronomy

Diamonds in the Sky-

The Winter Constellations

Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Days: Tuesday
Time: 7-8 pm
Fee: \$2/person - \$10/family max.
Date: March 7
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

Moon Shadows

Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Days: Tuesday
Time: 7:30-8:30 pm
Fee: \$2/person - \$10/family max.
Date: April 18
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson



Public Skyviewing

Galaxies Galore-The Spring Constellations

Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Days: Thursday
Time: 8-9 pm
Fee: \$2/person - \$10/family max.
Date: May 25
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

Solar Sunsatons-Sun Viewing

Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Days: Thursday
Time: 7-8 pm
Fee: \$2/person - \$10/family max.
Date: June 29
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

Art On The Prairie

The Byron Forest Preserve will continue to host visiting exhibits throughout the coming year. Each exhibit will feature a different artist, group of artists, or subject. The exhibits are free to the public and can be viewed any time the Jarrett Prairie Center is open.

Outhouse Archeology

February 1-27 - Presented by the Byron Historical Museum, this exhibit will feature artifacts recovered from a local pit toilet dig from a house owned by local physician Dr. Woodcock around the late 1800's. These artifacts provide a window into the past by showing us the items that were commonly used in the early 19th century. Included in the exhibit will be photos of the actual dig and information on the artifacts recovered.

Rock River Valley Wild Ones

Common Plant Families of Northern Illinois

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Thursday
Time: 7-9 pm
Fee: ??
Date: March 16
Min/Max: ??
Instructor: TBA

Landscape Design with Native Plants

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Thursday
Time: 7-9 pm
Fee: ??
Date: April 20
Min/Max: ??
Instructor: TBA

Bird & Wildflower Walks

Location: Jarrett Prairie Preserve
Day: Saturday
Time: 8-10 am
Fee: FREE
Date: April 29
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

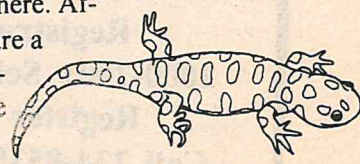
Location: Jarrett Prairie Preserve
Day: Saturday
Time: 8-10 am
Fee: FREE
Date: May 27
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

Amphibians Alive

We have a new live animal at the Jarrett Prairie Center! If you liked Pebbles, the box turtle, and D.C. the fox snake, your going to love Bruce the salamander. Bruce is an Eastern Tiger Salamander. Tiger Salamanders are common and native to most of the United States. Bruce was given to the Byron Forest Preserve by John Conner of Leaf River. It seems that Bruce lived in the science lab at the Leaf River High School until it closed and then moved in with the Conners. That means that Bruce is over ten years old! No one at the school could remember where he came from, so he could be even older than that.

Salamanders are amphibians, that means that they have moist, glandular skins, not at all like the dry scales of a reptile. Amphibians spend the first part of their lives in a larval stage, living in the water and breathing through gills (like a tadpole). Most amphibians develop to spend the later part of their lives living on land and breathing air (like a frog). One easy way to tell the difference between an amphibian and a reptile is to look at it's feet (if it has any). A reptile has claws on his toes and an amphibian has soft clawless feet often with webs between the toes. I bet you knew that the dinosaurs were all reptiles. But did you know that amphibians lived on the earth 10,000,000 years before the first dinosaurs?

Having Bruce here will be a great opportunity to compare reptiles to amphibians. So make some time to come out to the Jarrett Center to meet Bruce, our new salamander. Don't forget to say hello to D.C. and Pebbles while you're here. After all, whether you are a reptile or an amphibian, it's nice to have friends!



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 holidays 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.

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Friday
Time: 6-11 pm (pizza party)
Fee: Beginners - \$13
Continuing - \$8
Date: March 3
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructors: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Tuesday
Time: 6-10 pm
Fee: Beginners - \$10
Continuing - \$5
Date: March 21
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructors: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Friday
Time: 6-11 pm (pizza party)
Fee: Beginners - \$13
Continuing - \$8
Date: April 7
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructors: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Tuesday
Time: 6-10 pm
Fee: Beginners - \$10
Continuing - \$5
Date: April 18
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructors: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Creative Memories

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Friday
Time: 6-11 pm - National Scrapbook Day Celebration (pizza party)
Fee: Beginners - \$13
Continuing - \$8
Date: May 5
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructors: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Free Kids Concerts

It has been a GREAT third season! Our entertainers have made the audience made up of all ages laugh and holler with delight. These concerts are free because area businesses sponsor them. The next concert will be March 11 from 3-4p.m.

The entertainment will be Francesca's Marionette Theater, a touring marionette, hand and rod puppet show. Magical mix of music, dance, recognizable melodies, and the right amount of fun with an educational twist. Magnificent marionettes, folk to rock to pop. Fantastic European hand-crafted marionettes. Children will be able to manipulate marionettes after the show. Sponsored by Byron Bank.

For more information, please call 234-8535, ext. 205.

Fall Preschool Registration

The *Byron Forest Preserve Preschool* offers a unique learning experience for children ages 3-5. It provides an open-ended classroom full of fun and learning.

The *Byron Forest Preserve Preschool* activities will provide for and assist in your child's social and emotional development and will include Kindergarten readiness skills. This will be accomplished through the use of the natural environment and children will learn how to be good environmental citizens.

Our preschool will provide invaluable experience for preschoolers in dealing with groups of children their own age, learning to share and play together and to respond to loving adults other than their parents. There are periods of free play when they can pursue activities which interest them most, story time to learn to listen attentively and enjoy stories, periods of physical activity, and the alphabet and numbers are introduced. Songs and games and rhythms are also taught. Nature study and outdoor activities will be the foundation of the curriculum.

The cost is \$50 per month. Days and times of classes are: Monday & Wednesday - 9-11am & 1-3pm and Tuesday & Thursday - 9-11am & 1-3 pm.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis until classes are filled. The spot for your child is not reserved until a \$50 payment for the first month is made.

Ice Rinks are Open for

Skating

Byron Firefighters put the finishing touches on the ice rink. The rink will be open day and night, weather permitting. The ice rink is located across from the fire station on the south half of the lot next to the library.



**Check Out the
Rink at the
Forest Preserve!**

Field Trips

The Byron Forest Preserve hosts thousands of people every year for field trips. Field trips are a wonderful opportunity for groups to get a quick introduction to the Forest Preserve and a look at the world of nature. Many tour options are available including prairie walks, museum tours, observatory tours, and orienteering. On the Earthwalk, children are encouraged to explore the outdoors with all their senses, thus fostering a love of nature and a desire to care for the environment. They are guided into a respect for living things through hands-on experiences with live creatures, our teaching snake, D.C., and Pebbles our box turtle in our natural history museum. Sessions can be tailored for scout groups doing badge work.

Tours can be geared for preschoolers through senior citizens and can last from one to four hours. The cost is \$1.00 per person per hour and tours should be booked at least two weeks ahead. Call 234-8535 ext. 232 to book your tour today.

Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast March 18, 2000, 7-11 a.m.

The Prairie Restoration Department of the Byron Forest Preserve District will once again be hosting a Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday, March 18, from 7-11 am. The Kiwanis Club of Byron will supply a pancake breakfast featuring delicious pure maple syrup. We will also be offering hayrides out to the Sugar Maple woods to tour the tapped trees, and viewing of the syrup processing. This is quite an interesting and historic procedure, and everyone is encouraged to come out and experience it first hand.

All of the Sugar Maple sap is collected by the restoration department and processed in the evaporator in the expo building. Ideal weather for sap collection is freezing nights and warm, sunny days above 40 degrees. These conditions force sap into the trees' roots at night and up to the branches during the day. This causes sap to flow past the spile (a spout driven into the tree) and out into a bucket hanging from the spile. Sap is collected from the woods by hand and ends up in a holding tank in the Expo building. Sap travels from this tank into an evaporator where a hot fire heats the sap to boiling. Eventually, almost all of the water is boiled off, the resulting syrup is filtered twice and the maple syrup is bottled and cooled. With over 150 taps on the preserve and local Sugar Maples, we collected 1500 gallons of sap last year! This year, we plan to expand our taps to over 200.

At the Jarrett Prairie Center on the same day, Master Gardeners is sponsoring their spring gardening clinics. There will be talks on gardening and prairie plants and restoration. Feel free to come on up after breakfast and sit in on some of the programs.

The Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Byron Forest Preserve's Expo Building. Enter off River Road, just east of our main entrance. There will be plenty of parking just outside of the facility. The cost for the breakfast will be a nominal fee, with proceeds benefitting area charities. Tickets will be available for purchase from Kiwanis and Key Club members, so watch for ticket sales to begin. The hayrides and tours are free. The day promises to be enjoyable, educational, and delicious! Please mark your calendars for this event and watch for ticket sales to begin!

**Fall Preschool
Registration
2000-2001 School Year
Register Now
Call 234-8535 ext. 200**

Celebrate Your Birthday at the Forest Preserve!



We will provide a safe, nature-oriented environment, crafts, games, and activities relating to the theme chosen. There's something for everyone! All parties last two hours and have a maximum of 15 children ages 5 and up.

Standard Party

\$5 per child, \$50 minimum

Adults are responsible for refreshments, party favors, decorations, and will help with cleanup.

Deluxe Party

\$10 per child, \$50 minimum

WE will provide cake, ice cream, punch, a birthday banner, and all cleanup.

Party Themes

Native Americans - Experience the way of life of the Native Americans and make your own Indian child's toy to take home!

The Sky's The Limit - Enter a real working observatory and explore the stars, moons, and planets. Create a galaxy in a jar or other craft to take home!

Snakes Are Terrific - Meet a real live snake up close and get a feel for how they live, then make your own pet snake to take home!

Creepy Crawlies - Discover the amazing world of bugs, then make and race your own tumble bug or other craft.

Butterflies Are Fun - Where does a butterfly go when it rains? Have fun acting out this story and make a butterfly mobile to hang in your room!

To schedule your next birthday party, call the Byron Forest Preserve District at 234-8535 ext. 202.

Attention Teachers...

What is Earthkeepers?

- * Understanding how energy and materials tie all life together.
- * Experiencing good feelings when you're in touch with nature.
- * Undertaking personal lifestyle changes in order to begin living more in harmony with the natural world.
- * Helping others increase their understandings of, feeling for, and harmony with the earth and its life.

Who can be an Earthkeeper?

If you have learners who are 10-12 years old and you can spend two and one half to three days during any season in a natural setting and you can bring a parent or other volunteers, then your learners can become Earthkeepers. However, a full half of the program must take place back at home and school.

What is the Goal of the Earthkeepers Program?

The goal of the Earthkeepers program is to teach youngsters some basic ecological understandings and good feelings about the earth and its life, and undertake not only to live more lightly themselves, but to share their insights and behaviors with others.

For more information or to register your class, please call the Byron Forest Preserve District at 815-234-8535 ext. 202.

From the Beekeeper.....The Dead Hive

You approach the hive with trepidation. After all, there have been signs of inactivity during the winter. On this beautiful spring day, there are only a smattering of bees buzzing around. There's none of that whirling exuberance of the emerging hive. You hope against hope, but suspect that they are robber bees. You take off the covers and peer down. Nothing. Curled bees clinging to the edges. Bees sticking out of coffin-like cells. The silence is so complete, so out of place, so unnerving that you lean close to the hive expecting to hear something. Not a whisper. There's a smell of honey mixed with something putrid B a sulfury stench. It's the odor of dead insects. While cracking open the hive bodies, a cluster of dead bees fall to the bottom board. A pile of corpses lies on the ground below the entrance. The hive is dead.

You wonder about the horrors that occurred inside a slowly dying hive. Although you don't want to over-ascribe human qualities to bees, they were living beings and surely dying must have been hard on them. Did they realize they were dying? Did they suspect that the entire hive was in peril? Did the queen lose her spirit, and the rest of the hive follow suit? Did some bees see the future and try to get the rest of the hive to find a new home? Did other bees try to escape? Was there mutiny at the end, with the workers trying to create a new queen? Did a new queen fight with the old one, and in their weakened state both perish?

Thinking back to the fall, when you went into the hive it was a thick boiling cauldron of life. It was bubbling over with energy, willingness to work and the impetus to live. What could have changed all that in a few short months?

You think of the efforts, expense and risks involved in beginning anew. Buying and installing a package, feeding it sugar water, adding more frames and hoping it takes. It seems like such an avoidable waste and yet, what else is there to do? Not filling up the box, leaving it empty seems like a crime against nature.

Walking away from the scene you stare back at the hive from a distance. It looks like a smokestack, like any other hive gleaming white in the warm sun. You see it more like a grave stone, tinged with sadness. But next to the dead hive are your other hives bursting with life. These hives have made it through the winter. Like life, there is both success and failure in beekeeping. Like life, there is both the island of the living and the island of the dead. So rather than view your apiarist career as a long winding road of defeat and loss, you consider all the good you've done. All the living that these colonies have done, all the generations of bees that you have helped to support and all of the beautiful flowers that you have helped pollinate give you the inspiration and energy to continue and start anew.

Allow Me To Introduce Myself...

My name is Mark Spencer. I am a native to the Rockford area. I am currently attending Western Illinois University, pursuing a degree in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, with a minor in Law Enforcement. Presently, I am fulfilling my internship requirements. My internship started the beginning of January and will end in May.

During my internship, I plan to continue improving my skills in a variety of subjects. The most important is the basic understanding of park management, prairie restoration, and overall facility management.

My main goal while here at the preserve is to supply the community with the best quality park experience that anyone can provide. By keeping the facilities clean and organized, I will try to provide the best preservation, education, and recreation. I also find that the attitude that the community receives from you is the attitude that people will give back.

I hope that I may be able to get to know the people in the community better and that I may be able to provide what you need and what you may desire. At the end of the internship, I hope to continue serving the community through parks and recreation.

Byron Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards

Continued from page 1



BYRON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL AWARDS

P. O. Box 405 • Byron, IL 61010-0405
Phone 234-5500 • Fax 234-7114
E-Mail: byronchamber@mcw.net

NOMINATION FORM

Citizen of the Year
Outstanding Business Achievement
Outstanding Achievement

Nominee _____
Address _____ Telephone _____

Category

____ Citizen of the Year
____ Outstanding Business Achievement
____ Outstanding Achievement

Please use this sheet as a cover sheet for your nomination. Attach to this sheet your supporting comments for your nominee and mail to the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce - Awards Committee, P. O. Box 405, Byron, IL 61010. Please include your name and phone number.

Eligibility
Eligibility is confined to those people or businesses in the area defined by the Byron School District.

Nominations
Nominations in more than one category must be submitted in separate reports. Any individual, group, or business may make nominations. All nominations must be postmarked by March 24, 2000. Winners will be announced at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner April 15, 2000.

Continued from page 1

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:

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

The recipient of this award shall epitomize volunteer service to the Byron Community. This award 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.

PrairieView Golf Course News

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

www.prairieviewgolf.com/

2000 Golf, Cart, & Season

Pass Fees

Golf Fees:	Weekend/ Holiday 9/18 holes	Weekday/ Mon.-Fri. 9/18 holes
Daily Green Fees:	\$18 / \$30	\$15 / \$24
County*	16 / 26	13 / 20
Resident*	12 / 20	10 / 16

Senior**

Daily	-	\$12 / \$20
County*	-	10 / 16
Resident	-	8 / 12

Junior**

Daily	\$13 / \$17	\$10 / \$14
County*	11 / 14	9 / 12
Resident*	9 / 11	8 / 10

Twilight

Weekend	Weekday
3 pm	4 pm

Daily	\$18	\$15
County*	16	13
Resident*	12	10

36 Holes w/Cart - \$60

*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 10-31-00.

Cart Fees: Every Day - 9 / 18 Holes

Daily	\$16 / \$24
Senior/Single*	12 / 18
Twilight**	12

*Single/Senior - Some restrictions apply to single rate during peak hours. Senior cart rate available during senior playing hours only.

**Twilight - after 5:30 pm, Mon.-Sun.

Season Pass Fees*:	By 3-19-00	After 3-19-00
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Resident - Single

Adult	\$425	\$450
Senior	\$275	\$300
Junior	\$110	\$125
College Student	\$165	\$185

Resident - Couple/Family

Adult	\$650	\$695
Senior	\$420	\$450

Out of District - Single

Adult	\$545	\$570
Senior	\$350	\$375
Junior	\$120	\$135
College Student	\$205	\$225

Out of District - Couple/Family

Adult	\$775	\$820
Senior	\$545	\$575

* Restrictions may apply to

PrairieView Golf Pavilion and Conference Room

PrairieView has two fine rental facilities/rooms available for both the smallest and largest of groups. Newly completed last spring, our lower level clubhouse conference room is perfect for groups from 4-24. Features include conference style table and chairs, conference media board, TV/VCR, wet bar, food and beverage service, adjacent restroom, and all with complete privacy.

The separate PrairieView pavilion banquet facility seats 200+ individuals depending on the type of function - from golf playday banquets, to golf team functions, weddings, anniversary dinners, and a variety of other types of events. Call Karla Coy today and ask for a tour of both facilities. Call 234-GOLF ext. 11 to make your reservation.

PrairieView Private & Group Golf Lessons

Don't forget to schedule an early season tune-up for your golf swing. New beginner and intermediate golfers will be interested in PrairieView's adult group clinics that begin in late April and early May, including several classes exclusively for women. After school junior clinics will also be offered during this same time.

PrairieView clinics and private lessons are taught by PGA Pro Ken Ledene and PGA Apprentice Tony Buttwick. Private lessons can be scheduled at most any time to accommodate busy work and home schedules, including weekends and weekday evenings until dusk. Stop by the clubhouse in late March for more specific information on clinic start dates and sign-ups.

Golf Club at PrairieView Plans Activities

The Golf Club at PrairieView men's golf association has planned and set dates for most of their 2000 golf events. The forest preserve district and golf course staff appreciate the Golf Club's enthusiastic support and volunteer efforts in promoting and developing our outstanding PrairieView golf facility.

Golf Club members from last season should be receiving the club's spring newsletter #8 in the mail soon. Additional copies, schedules of events, and other association information will be available at the clubhouse for those not currently a member and interested in joining.

Junior Club Storage/Locker Rental

PrairieView's junior locker rental program has become so popular that it is not known at this time whether there will be enough club storage lockers available for all those junior golfers requesting one. Currently, there are 76 club storage lockers located in the clubhouse lower level available to both junior and adult golfers.

If you think you would like a locker, please call the PrairieView clubhouse and ask to be put on the locker waiting list. If there are more names on the list than lockers, there will be a lottery drawing on Saturday, April 1 at 11 am at the PrairieView clubhouse. No new lockers will be issued before this date and you must be on the waiting list by the close of business on March 31 to be entered in the lottery drawing. Junior locker rental fees are \$30 for the season plus a refundable \$15 key deposit and are due on April 1 if the lottery becomes necessary.

Practice Range Discount Debit Cards Available!

Save up to 50%!

Start the golf season off right with several swing tune-up visits to PrairieView's excellent practice range facility. We offer the newest, highest quality range balls in the area.

Save up to 50% off regular basket prices when you make your purchase with one of PrairieView's multi-purpose "VIP" voucher cards...cards start at \$200 and can be used for discounts on green fees and rental carts as well. Also available for purchase are special driving range ball "debit" cards offering savings up to 40% off regular bucket prices. Driving debit range cards prices are as follows: \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100. Please take note, range tokens this year will cost \$2.50 each with 30 balls per small basket (last year, each \$2 token purchased approximately 25 balls).

Range Card Value	Range Card Cost	Savings Per Basket
\$25	\$25	0%
\$50	\$45	10%
\$75	\$60	20%
\$100	\$70	30%

Shop!

Shop!

Shop!

Shop!

Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop

Newly redecorated
New items in stock!
Come check it out!



Prairie View
Golf Shop
Check it out!

VIP Voucher Program

PrairieView is once again offering its unique "VIP Voucher" discount card program to our regular golfers in 2000. Initially offered in 1995, our in-house debit card continues to grow in popularity every year. With purchase of a VIP card, PrairieView golfers can receive substantial savings on green fees, cart rental, and range practice balls - earning discounts of up to 20% off green fees, discounts on cart rentals up to 30%, and range discounts up to 50% off regular prices. And don't forget, VIP green fee discounts are in addition to regular resident card discounts!

For added convenience, PrairieView VIP cards can also be used to make purchases at concessions, for golf merchandise and lessons, range balls, and locker rentals. Another popular VIP feature is the two-year card expiration...VIP card balances carry over to the second year after the initial purchase date. Cards can be purchased in five different amounts starting at \$200 and going up to \$900, and couples and families can be issued multiple cards.

All said, PrairieView's VIP voucher card offers many great features and savings. Give us a call at 234-GOLF if you have any questions or pick up one of our 2000 VIP brochures at the clubhouse.

VIP Voucher Prices

Plan Level Number	Selected \$ Voucher Purchase Price	Green Fee Discount	Cart Discount	Range Ball Discount	Early Bird Purchase Price by 3-19-00
1	\$200	5%	15%	50%	\$190
2	\$300	10%	20%	50%	\$285
3	\$450	15%	25%	50%	\$427.50
4	\$600	20%	30%	50%	\$570
5	\$900	20%	30%	50%	\$855

PrairieView Junior Golf Program

As most anyone who is familiar with Byron knows, PrairieView Golf Course's support and promotion of junior golf has been and will always be a very high priority. Our staff continues to offer multiple and ever expanding golf opportunities for the youth in our area and, consequently, our junior program gets bigger and better every year.

Tony Buttwick and Ken Ledene are again planning the annual summer junior lesson series of clinics designed specifically for junior golfers - from new beginners starting at age five all the way up to the more advanced, tournament players with years of course experience. A completed packet of information, including lesson series starting dates, registration forms, tournament dates, and more will be available by mid-April. Please call Ken Ledene or Tony Buttwick at 234-GOLF if you have any immediate questions or would like to be on the mailing list for specific information sheets or registration forms. Summer junior golf lesson registration will begin in late April at the PrairieView clubhouse. Exact dates and times of classes will be announced then.

Golf Passes, Resident "Discount" Cards, Photo I.D.'s

District residents and other area golfers are reminded that PrairieView clubhouse will resume regular hours starting Monday, March 6, to sell passes and VIP vouchers, renew I.D. cards, sign up for club storage, etc.

Pre-season regular hours (starting 3/6/00):

Monday - Friday.....9 am - 5 pm

Saturdays.....9 am - 1 pm

*Sunday, March 19....Noon - 4 pm

(*Last day for preseason golf pass rates & VIP 5% discount)

Tentative opening date for the golf course itself is Monday, March 20, weather permitting. Please call 234-4653 for current course conditions. Once the course opens for play, normal spring operating hours until May 1 will be 7:15 am - dusk on weekdays and 6:30 am - dusk on weekends.

Golfers are reminded to please bring along their old photo I.D. discount card or season pass card for renewal. Also, remember March 19 is the last date to purchase season passes at a reduced rate. Starting March 20, the new, highest 2000 pass rates go into effect. Also, 2000 VIP vouchers are on sale at an early bird special 5% discount if purchased by March 19.

Praireview Construction Update

Last year, 1999, was very productive for construction crews at PrairieView Golf Course. They built tees, planters, structures and planted trees, bushes, flowers, native grasses and forbes.

In the spring, they planted, staked, and mulched 148 new 2 1/2 - 4" hard wood trees on the course and in the clubhouse landscape, plus 50 hybrid poplar trees in the secondary roughs left of 11 and 12 fairways. This fall we purchased 65 assorted 1"-1/2 "B&B trees on a closeout sale from a local nursery", which were planted in various locations on the course. Varieties include sugar maples, hawthorns, crab apples, Bradford Pears and river birch. Late in November crews using

our 44" tree spade began removing 6' English oaks from Byron Forest Preserve's south nursery and planting them at selected sites on PrairieView Golf Course. This will continue in the spring of 2000. We expect to move a total of 200-300 trees.

Using concrete wall stones and limestone, staff constructed new landscape planters at tees # 1, 4, 12, 15, the clubhouse entry, the putting green shelter and east of the golf cart parking lot. In miscellaneous construction capital workers built a concrete enclosure with a wood fence to house the clubhouse garbage dumpsters and fuel tank, a cooking shelter including concrete pad and driveway, wall stone planters

and landscaping east of the golf pavilion and paved walkways around the clubhouse flagpole, which were complemented by a planting of native grasses and forbes. In 2000 we expect to build limestone or wall stone planters at tees # 2, 3, 7, 18 and a limestone outcropping/planter around the clubhouse entry sign at German Church road.

Capital crews renovated PrairieView's front door sign area in September, moving some extremely tall prairie forbes to the three oaks prairie and replacing them with 4,000 prairie grasses including Panicum, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem and Canadian Ryegrass. This area inside the fence at the intersection of German Church and River

Roads should be quite spectacular in two years.

1999 saw the completion of the new #10 white and red tees, #11 gold, blue and white, #7 gold and blue, #4 gold and blue, #3 gold tee and moguls in the rough between 3 fairway and 4 tee. Except for #10 which was seeded, all tees were sodded. They should be ready for play in May of 2000. Crews also in 1999 hauled and dumped several thousand yards of soil west of the clubhouse where our dozer operator began shaping what will become PrairieView's new practice center. When completed in 2000 it will include a chipping green, a pitching green and another putting green.

Excavators digging

the basement for the new Byron fire station hauled and dumped over 2,000 cubic yards of fill soil at two locations on PrairieView Golf Course. Soil and trucking were absolutely free!! The first is the site of the new alternate tee at the south end of the driving range. Crews will cap this fill with topsoil and then seed it in 2000. The plan is to have this tee operational by September when we close regular tees to enlarge them. The second site to receive soil was tee # 6 where our dozer shaped and compacted the base for the new gold tee. In 2000 capital crews will cap the base with top soil. At the same time the dozer will reshape the north half of # 6 blue tee.

Proposed tee con-

struction for 2000 listed in order of highest priority is as follows; # 13 alternate tees, # 14 tee (all areas south of the cart path), #12 white tee, # 8 blue/gold tees, # 12 gold tee. With the scheduled completion of the practice center, driving range alternate tee and the expansion of existing driving range tees, 2000 promises to be another busy year for Byron Forest Preserve's capital construction crew.

