

PrairieView Golfer

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SPRING 1996

7993 N. RIVER ROAD

BYRON IL

(815) 234-GOLF

PrairieView Set To Open April 1



*Ken Ledene, Clubhouse
Manager/PGA Pro*

Mark your calendars, opening day is just ahead! PrairieView staff and Byron Forest Preserve District officials would like to welcome everyone to the start of our fourth full season of operation.

Official opening day is Monday, April 1, weather permitting. As occurred last year, however, we may get an earlier jump on the season if Mother Nature is cooperative.

Winter started around mid-October last Fall with snow and cold and hasn't improved since. We are more than deserving of a warm, early break in the weather!

Spring always brings a note of good cheer with many new and exciting plans in the works for the 1996 golf season.

Residents will be happy to note, for the third consecutive year, no increase in daily green fees. The VIP program is back in a new and improved version allowing more and easier usage. Qualifying age for seniors is now lowered to age 60 or over at the time of purchase for the 1996 season. New additions include the purchase of a range ball dispensing machine and more soft drink vending machines on the course.

Plans for additional projects, fun and exciting golf events are being developed daily in anticipation of a new season. Byron residents and all season passholders watch for the announcement of a fun, new event on Tuesday, April 16. So, come on out early, join in on the fun, as we look forward to another great season at PrairieView in 1996.

FREE Golf and Cart?

Would free golf and cart use interest you? If so, read on!

The Byron Forest Preserve District and PrairieView Golf Course staff have decided to implement a totally volunteer ranger program for the 1996 season.

What this means is that for the entire season, PrairieView will be solely dependent upon individuals in this new program to provide and perform all past ranger duties.

In return for their time and efforts, volunteer rangers will receive free golf privileges. Stop by the clubhouse for details or call Ken at (815) 234-GOLF.

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Adult Volunteers Needed!

Planning for this season's junior golf program is underway. Last season saw a repeat of another huge response and interest in youth golf at PrairieView with 118 junior golfers enrolled in the second season of the expanded junior program.

Our current plans are to continue to build and develop the program even more. While the program has depended heavily on volunteer adults in the past, and with our pending tax situation, it will require even more donated time of parents and individuals this season in order to succeed and maintain the level of last year's program.

At this point, Clubhouse Manager Ken Ledene is exploring ways to add mini-sessions for youths as young as five, offer shorter, more concentrated classes for some participants, and to expand classes or programs to accommodate the more experienced junior golfer.

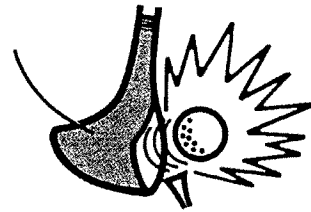
Suggestions or ideas to enhance PrairieView's youth golf program are welcome. Drop a note to PrairieView Golf Course, Attn: Ken Ledene, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010 or call Ken at (815) 234-4653.

Passes, Discount Cards, and ID's

PrairieView Golf Course will begin sales and renewals for all passes, discount cards, and "VIP" vouchers, including photo ID's, during special hours in March. **Please bring along your old photo ID card because we will be able to reissue the same card and number in many instances.**

The PrairieView clubhouse will be open on the following days specifically for pass sales, photo ID's, etc. Hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day.

Wednesday & Friday:	March 13/15, 20/22, 27/29
Saturday & Sunday:	March 16/17, 23/24, 30/31



Regular golf course hours will resume on Monday, April 1 at 8 a.m., or as weather permits. In order to better serve everyone, residents are asked to stop by in early April during the less busy weekday hours and weekend afternoons, if possible. Individuals with gift certificates for season golf passes need to redeem their certificate for a current photo ID pass by March 31, 1996 as a qualification for the reduced pass rate.

Golf Club at PrairieView



The Golf Club at PrairieView volunteers building the concession shelter last summer.

PrairieView welcomes back the "Golf Club at PrairieView" golfer's association for another successful year of sponsored activities and events.

The district and golf course staff greatly appreciates the golf association's enthusiastic support and volunteer efforts in promoting and developing our outstanding PrairieView golf facility.

While past season association members will be receiving the club's spring newsletter, additional copies, schedules of events, and other association information will be available at the clubhouse for anyone to pick up.

The staff is looking forward to working together with club chairman Art Snow and his organization in promoting another fun year of golf activities at PrairieView.

“VIP” Voucher Program

PrairieView's unique “VIP” voucher program will again be offered this season with a few “new” twists. Introduced prior to the 1995 season, the voucher program proved to be very popular.

Basically, the same concept applies again this year in that the voucher performs as a “debit” card for golfers. The VIP program offers golfers, as before, substantial discounts for green fees, motorized carts, and now includes driving range balls in the same program.

In addition, the new VIP barcoded card can also be used for all other clubhouse daily cash purchases (concessions, pro merchandise, lessons, etc.)! Five different plan levels are available for purchase with an additional early bird savings of five percent if purchased by March 31, 1996.

Remember, the various levels of discounts depending on the plan purchased, normally apply only to daily card usage for green fees, motorized carts, and range balls. But with an early bird purchase, golfers can receive an additional five percent savings on all clubhouse purchases within the limits of the card usage!

Playdays at PrairieView

PrairieView is looking for several new playday groups for the 1996 golfing season. Before any of our residents or season passholders threaten to burn down the clubhouse in retaliation, let me explain.

Many of us know there are many times or days during the golf season when the golf course has extremely low play. Our goal this season is to simply apply a little more effort in order to fill some of these slower times with multiple reserve tee time groups. Incidentally, PrairieView's definition of a “playday” group can include as few as 20 golfers on weekdays.

If you know of a group looking for a course to host a playday or if you would like to host an event yourself, please let us know at the clubhouse.

Our goal, as recently stated by subscribers in the Golf Digest's new “Places To Play Guide,” is for PrairieView G.C. to remain the “best golf for the money” for years to come, but first and primarily for our local residents.

New Range Ball Machine

New for the 1996 golf season, PrairieView G.C. has purchased an automated, range ball dispensing machine. Located in the area of the practice area tees, the new machine will offer much greater customer convenience.

The new machine will accept either tokens or a special hard plastic “debit” card and dispense balls in three bucket sizes. Individuals with debit cards or previously purchased tokens can go directly to the range and pick out the quantity of balls they chose. Also, a new pop machine will be located next to the range ball machine at the same time for added convenience.

Please stop by the clubhouse in late March or early April and purchase a new 1996 “VIP” voucher card to save up to 50 percent on range ball usage.

Ken's Clubhouse Notes...

Adult 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 clinics which begin in early May.

Beginner clinics are scheduled in early evenings or private lessons are available to best accommodate your busy schedule. Stop by the clubhouse in late March for more information and specific times.

“Places To Play” Guide

PrairieView Golf Course recently was selected for special recognition by Golf Digest readers in the new '96-97 “Places To Play Guide”.

PrairieView was one of only 150 Illinois public golf courses to appear in the guide and finished in the top 50 percent of this select group of Illinois courses with a three-star rating. Furthermore, PrairieView was one of only 12 golf courses in the entire state to be designated **“the best golf for the money”**.

New Golf Pavilion

Last year, as some of our golfing patrons are aware, the Byron Forest Preserve District began Phase I of a project to convert the former golf course cart storage building into a “multi-purpose” facility.

At minimal additional expense, the building conversion will provide comfortable, all-weather, wind-protected space for groups of up to nearly 300 during the golfing season.

Environmental Steward Award

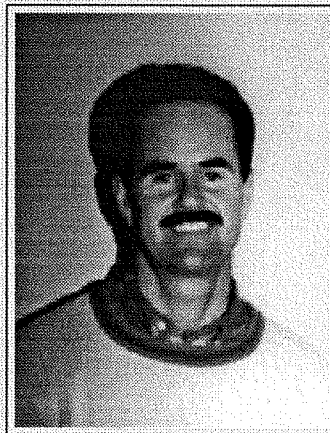
PrairieView Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent Steve Storz was recently named a merit winner in the Environmental Steward Award competition.

The competition is sponsored annually by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Foundation, Ciba Turf and Ornamental Products, Rain Bird's Golf Division, Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc., and Lebanon Turf Products.

The Environmental Steward Awards were created to recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their work to enhance and protect their local environment.

Winners are recognized for overall course management excellence, outstanding programs to maximize pesticide and fertilizer efficiency, irrigation and equipment efficiency, as well as wildlife preservation and habitat enhancement.

All entries are reviewed by an independent panel of judges chosen for their expertise in environmental issues and turfgrass management. This year, judges selected 19 merit winners, 17 regional winners and three national winners.



Steve Storz, Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent

TURF NOTES

By Steve Storz, Golf Course Superintendent

We anticipate several ongoing course improvements at PrairieView this year. They include the following:



Golf Maintenance worker Carson Breeden does some repair work on the course last fall.

1. Install sand (up to 2,000 tons) in our bunkers. It's our goal to complete most of the work before opening day.
2. Core and gravel new cart paths. The blacktop would be installed by an outside contractor. Our goal is to have all holes accessible to hard surface cart paths. This would permit carts to go out sooner after heavy rains.
3. Begin to relocate and enlarge our numerous undersized forward (red) tees. Completion will probably take two years.
4. Install drain tiles in wet areas. Examples are 13 and 14 green bunkers and the swales in 1, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 14 fairways.
5. Plant more trees in strategic locations on the course, this spring, early summer, and in the fall, if necessary.
6. Install heating and air conditioning, ceiling fans, and more insulation in the cart pavilion. The projected completion date is May 1.

We are excited about PrairieView Golf Course. Through the cooperative efforts of all those who have contributed to its development, PrairieView is now beginning to fulfill its potential as an excellent, notable golf facility.

With continued support, PrairieView promises to be an ever-increasing profit center for the Byron Forest Preserve District.