

FALL INTO FUN



AUTUMN-
WINTER
ACTIVITY
GUIDE 2024



A PUBLICATION OF *Rock Valley Publishing*



Hard Rock Rockford Casino OPENED LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Rockford's long-desired casino is officially open. Hard Rock International revealed earlier in August that Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility would open Aug. 29 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in true Hard Rock tradition.

"I'd like to thank the Rockford community and State of Illinois for welcoming Hard Rock and our unique brand of world-class entertainment to the greater region," said Jon Lucas, Chief Operating Officer at Hard Rock International.

"The economic impact of this casino will provide hundreds of new jobs and boost the entertainment options for anyone living near or visiting

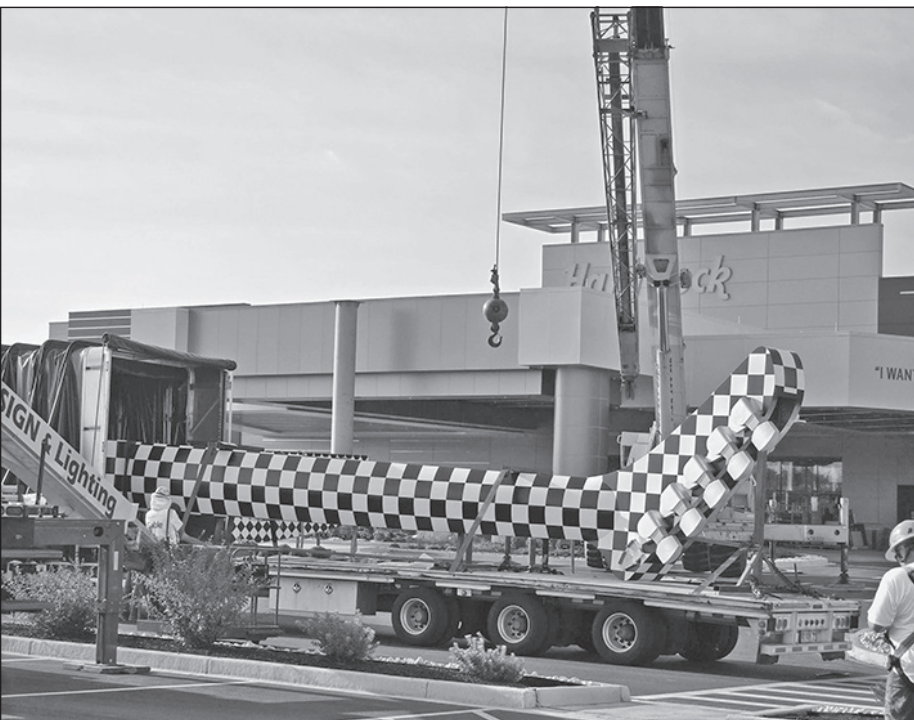
Rockford," Lucas said prior to the casino's permanent location opening.

"We are thrilled to welcome this new property to our global portfolio of over 300 Hard Rock venues," he added.

The new casino, which is off the I-90 State Street exit at 7801 E. State Street in Rockford, boasts more than 175,000 square feet of gaming, entertainment, and hospitality space.

Among the diverse array of attractions at the casino are nearly 1,300 slot machines, 50 live table games including a poker room and a state-of-the-art sportsbook.

There are also six unique restaurants, and a Rock Shop on site, offering a variety of authentic Hard Rock



merchandise and more.

"We are extremely proud of our team members who helped make our initial Operating Act location a success, and we welcome all those new to the team who have worked so hard preparing for this long-awaited day," Geno Iafrate, President of Hard Rock Casino Rockford said.

"It's been 30 years in the making for Rockford, and the wait is over. We are excited to welcome guests to our house to showcase and expand the legendary Hard Rock brand," Iafrate added.

One of the highlights of the new casino is the Hard Rock Live entertainment venue, spanning 23,000 square feet, and accommodating

up to 2,000 guests for concerts and performances.

Hard Rock planned to hire more than 400 additional people to staff its new casino.

Those interested in learning more can visit GoToWorkHappy.com.

The entertainment powerhouse invited the public to experience an electrifying musical celebration as part of its grand opening celebration, which was on Labor Day weekend.

"Entertainment is at the heart of Hard Rock Casino Rockford," Iafrate said.

"We're all about creating memorable experiences, and we're ready to showcase industry-leading musical acts. Get ready to rock with us!"

top: Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility opened Thursday, Aug. 29 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in Hard Rock tradition. **above left:** Four semi-trucks delivered the highly anticipated, nearly 63-foot-tall replica of Rick Nielsen's (Cheap Trick) signature checkerboard guitar to Hard Rock Casino Rockford's new casino. **above right:** The guitar marquee, crafted over the past five months by Baltimore-based Gable Company, offloaded in four sections.

Rock Cut State Park offers natural fun for families

Chiseled out of the state's far northern region is Rock Cut State Park in Winnebago County. Nearby are other "rocky" landmarks - the mighty Rock River and the place where wagons once forded it, Rockford. It's an area of rolling plains, interesting history, and recreational variety.

Two lakes set off the park's 3,092 acres. Pierce Lake, with 162 acres, is a retreat for people wanting to fish, ice fish, or ice skate. The second 50-acre Olson Lake is especially for swimmers.

Rounding out the park's recreational options are camping, hiking, horseback trails, and cross-country skiing. Whatever the season, you can be sure there's quite a bit of activity going on at Rock Cut State Park.

Rock Cut is an alcohol free park and campground.

Hours

Summer hours (April – Oct.) 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Winter hours (Nov. - March) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

History

By the middle of the 17th century, Miami-speaking tribes of Native Americans entered the region of Rock Cut State Park after the Iroquois drove them from territory on the southern end of Lake Michigan.

From about 1655 until 1735, the Rock River was within the range of the Mascouten, who were also pushed westward by the Iroquois.

The Winnebago ranged southward from Wisconsin to the Rock River from the 1740s until 1837, while the river's upper portion was on the periphery of the Fox and Sauk territory from about 1765 to 1833.

By 1800, the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa nations had extended their range into the area, but they ceded their lands to the United States 32 years later following the Black Hawk War.

Settlement of Winnebago County began after the Black Hawk War

The region that is now Rock Cut State Park was settled partly by Scots around Argyle - named for their Scottish home of Argyllshire - and partly by Canadians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders around the town of Harlem - named for New York City's Harlem.

The Illinois version of Harlem was moved in 1859 when the Kenosha-Rockford Rail Line was built. The dammed waters of Pierce Lake now cover much of the railroad bed within the park, although portions of the railroad grade are visible along Willow Creek below the spillway.

But blasting operations in a rock outcrop that railroad crews conducted during the 1859 construction left lasting



impressions here - they cut through rock to provide a suitable roadbed and gave Rock Cut its name.

The Park's present

Because water serves as a welcome mat to birds and animals, wildlife watchers to the area won't be disappointed. Birders report good viewing, with waterfowl being abundant. Deer, foxes, muskrats, woodchucks, and beavers inhabit Rock Cut State Park as do opossums, raccoons, and both gray and fox squirrels.

Over 100 types of wildflowers offer a showy display each spring and summer, while the hardwood trees dazzle you with their reds and golds every fall.

Trails

The trail system at Rock Cut offers opportunities for hiking (40 miles), mountain biking (23 miles), and equestrian (14 miles) and has been completely remarked. Trail users will find updated trail head/information signs at picnic areas and trail access points for trail information and regulations.

Only certain trails are designated for mountain biking and equestrian use and are identified by colored trail markers. Blue trails are for mountain biking and hiking, yellow trails are for equestrian and hiking, and red trails are restricted to hiking only.

Trail activities have been divided into "summer and winter" seasons to provide quality seasonal programs. The "summer program" (mountain biking and equestrian) trails are open April 1 – Nov. 30. These regulations for mountain biking and equestrian use will be strictly enforced and violators are subject to fines.

The "winter program" provides for groomed cross-country trails as conditions permit. The groomed trails are best accessed at the Lions Club Picnic Area.

As a courtesy, hikers and snow shoers are asked to use other trails that have not been groomed for skiing. A winter

trail guide is being developed to better describe the trails groomed for classical skiing and those groomed for freestyle/ skating.

Rock Cut also offers access (at the Pierce Lake spillway) to the Willow Creek Bike Trail and Perryville Path, a paved trail system connecting the local communities of Loves Park and Rockford to Rock Cut State Park.

Camping

For those who want to include an overnight stay in their visit to Rock Cut, the park offers 28 Class A-Premium sites for reservation, 210 Class A-Premium sites, and 60 Class B-Premium sites on a first-come first-serve basis.

There is also a primitive cabin available for reservation. It has electricity, but does not have water or plumbing facilities.

Open year round, the campgrounds provide water, electricity, sanitary dump stations, showers, toilets, a boat launch, and playground equipment. Only electricity and pit toilets are available in the winter season. Equestrian camping is restricted to a site on Hart Road.

Groups of more than 25 persons need advance permission from the site superintendent before they can enter the park, and all campers require a permit from park personnel. Alcohol is prohibited in the campground.

Fishing, boating

One of the park's most popular activities is fishing Pierce Lake - named for state Rep. William Pierce of Rockford, who served in the legislature from 1951-1966 and proposed the first land acquisition for the park in 1955.

The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish, as well as bullhead, northern pike, muskellunge, and walleye. Pierce Lake will allow any size engine on the lake, however, engines over 10 hp can operate at No Wake speed only.

Paddle & Trail Bait Shop is open at Pierce Lake with canoe, kayak, and boat rentals; they also have various types of bait available. For more information and prices, call 815-885-4740.

Pierce Lake also has docks and two launching ramps available. Olson Lake also offers excellent fishing. Carry-on watercraft and electric motors only.

Hunting

The hunting program allows disabled hunters an opportunity to participate in a Department of Natural Resources program for managing the deer herd and turkey populations at Rock Cut State Park.

Swimming

Olson Lake Beach operates (Memorial

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

2024 FALL FUN GUIDE

A publication of
ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC
1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-3411

Section Editor..... Melanie Bradley
Section Design..... Jen DeGroot
Creative Director..... Heidi Schulz
Advertising..... Vicki Vanderwerff

**For advertising opportunities,
call (262) 728-3411**

above: Rock Cut State Park, one of Northern Illinois' larger state parks, offers camping, hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, horse and bike trails, cross country ski trails, ice skating, and concessions.

MARK ADAMANY PHOTO *Fall Fun Guide*

Winnebago County Forest Preserves offer fall camping fun

Sugar River

10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, Ill., 61024
All 82 sites in the main campground at Sugar River may be reserved online. Reservations MUST be made at least seven days in advance.
Primitive sites are on a first-come first-served basis.
Please register at the attendant building, or in the absence of attendant, please use the self-registration station.

Seward Bluffs

16999 Comly Road, Seward, Ill., 61077
All 47 sites at Seward Bluffs may be reserved online. Online reservations MUST be made at least seven days in advance.
Please register with the campground host or in the absence of a host, please use the self-registration station.

Hononegah

#80 Hononegah Road, Rockton, Ill. 61072
No reservations available for sites at Hononegah, sites are on a first-come first-served basis. The host will register campers on a per unit basis after the units are established.
Please register with the campground host or in the absence of a host, please use the self-registration station.



The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County offer an abundance of beautiful campgrounds. COURTESY PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

Fees

Resident/Non-resident

Sugar River

\$17 residents/\$27 non-residents
Senior (62+) & disabled \$15 residents/\$25 non-residents
Electric hookup (additional) \$10
Primitive \$15 residents/\$25 non-

residents

Primitive-Senior (62+) and disabled \$13 residents/\$23 non-residents

Seward Bluffs and Hononegah

\$15 residents/\$25 non-residents
Senior (62+) & disabled \$13 residents/\$23 non-residents
Electric hookup (additional) \$10

A closer look at the autumnal equinox

Each September, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the autumnal equinox, which marks the official beginning of fall. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring is arriving at this time.

Each year there are two equinoxes, the vernal and the autumnal (March and September, respectively). Shortly after the autumnal equinox, days begin getting shorter, and nights get longer. The autumnal equinox always occurs between Sept. 21 and Sept. 24. In 2024, the autumnal equinox takes place on Sept. 22.

The word equinox is from the Latin "aequi," meaning "equal," and "nox" or "night." That means that during each equinox the hours of day and night are nearly equal in length across the planet.

During the equinox, the part of the Earth that is closest to the sun is the equator, explains History.com. That helps make night and day equal in length.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the Autumnal Equinox on Sept. 22, 2024, arrives at 7:44 a.m.

Fall for the Forest Preserves



Discover the nature of life by exploring *your* forest preserves - over 100 miles of trails, campgrounds, golf courses, and more!

winnebagoforest.org

Rockford's History Museum offers a museum of exhibits, historic village, re-enactments

Our Mission

Midway Village Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the diverse history of the Rockford region and is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing high quality exhibits, programs, and events.

Vision

Midway Village Museum will be the primary institution where Rockford's diverse citizens gather to understand their community's past and to discuss the challenges of the future.

Important museum dates

In 1968, Midway Village Museum was organized by the Swedish, Harlem, and Rockford Historical Societies for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Rockford area. It began with a donation of land by the Severin Family and has grown dramatically since.

1972 – The original museum site was located on 11 acres donated by the Severin Family. Today the site is 137 acres.

1974 – The development of Midway Village opened to represent a typical rural town in Northern Illinois during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

1974 – The original 10,000 square foot Museum Center facility opened.

1976 – The Industrial Gallery opened.

1988 – The Old Doll's House Museum opened along with additional galleries, including the Aviation Gallery and the Carlson Education Gallery.

Our history

Midway Village Museum was organized in 1968 by the Swedish, Harlem, and Rockford Historical Societies for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Rockford area.

It began with a donation of land by the Severin Family and has grown dramatically since.

In 1972, the original museum site was located on 11 acres donated by the Severin Family; today the site is 137 acres. The original 10,000 sq. ft. Museum Center facility opened in 1974.

The Industrial Gallery opened in 1976.

In 1986 the Exhibition Hall was built to link the previous two buildings together.

In 1988, more galleries were opened, including the Aviation Gallery and the Carlson Education Gallery. Across the parking lot, the Old Dolls' House Museum was opened that same year.

Today, the 52,700 sq. ft Museum Center houses seven exhibition galleries, collections storage, classrooms, workrooms, administrative offices, library, audio-visual room, and the Museum Store. The 2000 renovation of the History Building made the facility handicap accessible and the Museum Center more visitor friendly.

The collections have grown to over 110,000 objects, including three-dimensional pieces, structures, textiles, and archival material.

The development of Midway Village began in 1974. The Village is representative of a typical rural town in



Midway Village Museum features a treasure trove of historical artifacts and exhibits. The campus also hosts many events marking history with reenactors. Midway Village is located at 6799 Guilford Road in Rockford.

MIDWAY VILLAGE PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

Northern Illinois at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Midway Village features 26 historical structures, including a general store, hardware store, print shop, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, town hall, police station, plumbing shop, bank, hotel, hospital, fire station, church, barber shop, law office, two barns, and four farm houses.

Hours of Operations

Main Museum Center, Woodward Millhouse, Old Doll's House and Museum Gift Store

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday Noon to 4 p.m.

Victorian Village Guided Tours: Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.

Admissions

Free admission for museum members and children ages 0-4.

Main Museum Center Exhibits
\$10 Adults • \$8 Child (ages 5-12) • \$8 Senior (62+)

Victorian Village Guided Tours & Museum Center
\$12 Adults • \$10 Child (ages 5-12) • \$10 Senior (62+)

Victorian Village Living History Weekends & Museum Center

\$14 Adults • \$12 Child (ages 5-12)
\$12 Senior (62+)

NOTE: Special events are priced separately. Please consult midwayvillage.com for pricing.

Beginning Saturday, Sept. 3, and running through Sunday, Oct. 27, the Victorian Village will be open for tours by costumed History Interpreters.

On Saturdays, tours will begin on the hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Sundays, tours will begin on the hour from Noon to 3 p.m.

Midway Village Museum outdoor special events are rain or shine, with no refunds on admissions. No pets are allowed on the grounds. Midway Village Museum is a smoke free campus.

There is also no drone photography allowed.

Inside the Main Museum Center

As a visitor you will view the permanent exhibits featuring thousands of artifacts related to history.

Many faces, one community

This exhibit features stories of Rockford's immigrants from 1834 to the present. Arrive through the train depot, stroll along 7th and South Main Streets, visit an immigrant home, and apply for a job at the Swedish furniture factory.

Queen City of the Prairies

Only 20 years after its founding, Rockford became an important regional center of government, industry, and commerce. Learn more about life in 1840s Rockford

The Girls of Summer

Meet the Rockford Peaches and learn about these ladies who played hardball in the 1940s-50s.

Socks, Monkeys and Rockford's industrial past

Monkey around with red heel socks and view the Nelson knitting machines. Find the sock monkey that helped win Rockford the title of "Home of the Sock Monkey."

Flight gallery

Learn about local aviators like Bessica Raiche and see Col. Bert Hassell's 1928 SMI Stinson-Detroit Airplane.

Industrial gallery

Rockford's industrial geniuses created innovative products that impacted the local and worldwide economy.

Adjacent to the Museum Center be sure to see

Old Doll's House Museum: outside the Museum Center, the Old Doll's House Museum has 30 miniature homes representing different countries.

Woodward Millhouse

Tour an 1860s recreated mill with a functioning waterwheel located on Lake Severin.

Book your self-guided museum tour online or call us at 815-397-9112. You may purchase your admission when arriving at the museum. Tickets do not need to be purchased in advance, however you may choose to do so. Admission is on a first come, first served basis.

Midway Village is located at 6799 Guilford Road in Rockford. Parking is free and adjacent to the Main Museum Center building, which is situated on the right side of the campus as you enter the grounds.




Gather and enjoy the season

Whether you want to get out on the course and enjoy the fall weather, or golf inside on our two golf simulators, there is autumn fun for everyone at Woodbine Bend!

See you at Woodbine Bend
woodbinebend.com
@woodbinebend
(815) 858-3939

3500 E. Center Rd Stockton, IL

Wolf Hollow Golf Course
"Where Golf is a Breath of Fresh Air"
 6546 N. Shippee Rd. • Lena • 815-369-5513
 www.wolfhollowgolf.net

1 Foursome for \$100

(Includes cart)

Monday through Friday and Weekends after 1 p.m.

Call for Tee Times!



Expires end of 2024 season

45996

Jarrett Prairie Center Natural History Museum 7993 North River Road, Byron, IL



Enjoy these free activities:

- Explore 4,000 square feet of interactive exhibits
- Design your own farm at our plow exhibit
- Take in the season at our prairie overlook area



Byron Forest Preserve District

www.byronforestpreserve.com • 815-234-8535

459622



at right: Visit the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum that boasts amazing views of the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve, along with more than 4,000 square feet of exhibits and hands-on learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. **above:** Visitors can take a step out on the 2,600 square foot, wrap-around, outdoor observation deck to take a look at the scenery for miles, as the Jarrett Prairie Center is located on the third highest point in Ogle County. The deck also enhances the already unique space for those who rent the facilities for family gatherings, weddings, and other social and corporate events.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE PHOTOS *Fall Fun Guide*



JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER MUSEUM

features exhibits, other amenities

Visit the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum that boasts amazing views of the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve, along with more than 4,000 square feet of exhibits and hands-on learning opportunities for visitors of all ages.

There are several large natural history and historical dioramas, fossil exhibits, prairie restoration information, an interactive prairie agriculture exhibit that allows visitors to design their own farm, and some live exhibits including box turtles, a fox snake, and honey bees.

Visitors can relax in the Byron Bank Immersive Theater while learning about local prairie ecology. The ever-popular Wolf Den bur oak tree exhibit is located in the theater for all of the little ones to enjoy climbing in and out and through, finding what may live inside our bur oak

trees!

Visitors can take a step out on the 2,600 square foot, wrap-around, outdoor observation deck to take a look at the scenery for miles, as the Jarrett Prairie Center is located on the third highest point in Ogle County.

The deck also enhances the already unique space for those who rent the facilities for family gatherings, weddings, and other social and corporate events. Also available for rental groups is a state-of-the-art kitchen area sponsored by Prairie Forge Group of St. Charles,

Ill., who served as architects for the 2016 museum renovation project. OSF Medical Group was also a generous sponsor of the renovation.

Jarrett Prairie Center is located at 7993 North River Road, Byron, Ill.

Hours

Sunday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Hours may vary due to private rentals. For more information call 815-234-8535 x200.

Heritage Farm: An early country experience

In 1843, Charlie Wilbur and his family came from New York and settled across the river from Byron, Ill. The farm, which is now called Heritage Farm, remained in the Wilbur family for five generations.

The Byron Forest Preserve has restored the farm buildings, so that future generations can discover what early country life was about. You can enjoy a free self-guided tour through the grout house. Take a peek in the barns at the local "residents." A small fee may be charged for guided tours.

School field trips and group tours are encouraged. Children and adults can learn how to make cornbread over the fire and "churn" their own butter for it. Yum! When in season, groups learn about maple syrup and honey production and bottling too.

Heritage Farm is located at the Byron Forest Preserve, 8059 North River Road, Byron, Ill.

Museum hours

Open daily (April 1 – Oct. 31)
 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sunday 2 to 6 p.m.
 Please call 815-234-8535 x217 to set up a tour.



Weiskopf Observatory

The J. Weiskopf Observatory, with its 11" Celestron reflecting telescope, is available for public viewing and special programs. During the weekly FREE public viewing sessions, experienced staff will guide you through the night skies. Visitors will see the planets, the moon, and fainter objects in the sky. Special events and programs are offered as amazing events take place in our skies like meteor showers, solar and lunar eclipses, and when a planet is easily visible. For viewing conditions, please call 815-234-8535 ext. 216. at Weiskopf Observatory in the Byron Forest Preserve.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Fall Fun Guide*

**New, Custom Hardwood Floors
Installed, Sanded & Finished
Custom Sanding of Old Floors**

Hull Hardwood Flooring

Hardwood Flooring Specialists for Over 40 Years
Family Owned & Operated

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- Real 3/4" hardwood flooring, not a thin laminate.
- Custom sanding and finishing of old floors.

**Covering Brodhead and
the surrounding areas**

*Call for free estimates at 608-558-6570,
608-558-1960 or 608-214-6570*

459620



The Finest In Estate and Antique Jewelry

Come in and browse

Luecke Jewelers

Historic Square
Downtown Monroe • 608-325-2600

Downtown Freeport
10 E. Main Street • 815-233-0013

Your Trusted Family Jeweler Since 1921

459825

WE HAVE ONE GOAL AT



Brodhead, WI • Across from Subway

**The highest quality
repair and complete
customer satisfaction!!!**

We have the experience,
skill and facilities to return
your vehicle
back to showroom
NEW condition

**When you need
body work
call us first
608-897-8447**

bodycraftersautobody@gmail.com



**PROUDLY SERVING BRODHEAD AND
THE STATELINE AREA SINCE 1986**

459792

BOXCARS
Pub & Grub
108 Allen St., Clinton, WI • 608-676-1149
boxcarspubandgrub.com

**** Join us for ****

- Friday Fish Fry • Daily Specials •

Friday Meat Raffle
5 p.m • Double Bubble 4-6 p.m.

Chef's Choice every Sat. night

**Check out our Kunes RV Stage
Summer Concert Series!**

In Town Delivery Find us on Facebook Gift Certificates Available

460007



Golf course designer James Spear designed the forest preserve's 18 hole, bentgrass PrairieView Golf Course, which provides a challenging game for golfers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

Byron PrairieView Golf Course: Winding through the beautiful prairie

Just a chip shot south of Rockford along beautiful Illinois Route 2 in easy-going Byron lies a magical golf course that plays like the best country clubs in the region, but costs like a muni. Sculpted out of an ancient landscape once home to majestic bison and other denizens of the wild, this is a big course with a big, generous heart.

Weaving its way through remarkable tall grass prairie and the remnants of old oak savanna and other hardwood stands, PrairieView is a golf course where you can breathe, relax, and enjoy the beauty of the natural environs remarkably untouched by architect James Spear's design.

As is the case with most exceptional golf courses, what Spear left is as important as what he added. What he removed was minimal – and what remains is an amazing, naturalistic example of God's hand relatively untouched by man's: a true rarity in the world of golf.

A mid-course pond menaces the right side of tricky par-four #5, feeding a narrow, bubbling creek that comes into play on the long, lazy par-five #2 and the somewhat more menacing par-five #6. The creek feeds another, smaller pond that comes into play for long hitters on the dogleg par-four #7 and gets everybody's attention on the lengthy, challenging par-three #8.

In all, 63 strategically placed sand bunkers dot PrairieView's 18 fascinating holes. Home to many local, state, and regional tournaments, PrairieView Golf Club stretches from just shy of 5,300 yards from the forward tees to nearly 7,200 yards from the daunting tips.

Simply put, this golf course has game to spare for golfers of any level – but is fair enough from the appropriate tees to make play fun for players of all levels.

At an average of 8,000 square feet, "sprawling" accurately characterizes the

Penncross bentgrass cultivar greens, while the tee boxes and fairways consist of a Penneagle/Seaside/Emerald bentgrass cultivar blend. The primary rough is Kentucky bluegrass – which you will be happy to be in rather than the tall grass prairie and abundant wildflowers and woods lining the rough on many holes.

Immaculately maintained by a talented GCSAA-certified superintendent and his dedicated crew, PrairieView's conditions easily live up to those of the region's finest clubs – while surprising golfers in the pro shop with surprisingly low greens fees.

A member club of the Chicago District Golf Association and proudly enrolled in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, PrairieView is home to more than just golfers; it hosts many species of wildlife and bird life, as well – much to the delight of golfers. There are no modern-day live bison, however!

Just a short, pleasant drive south from Rockford along the meandering Rock River and Highway 2, PrairieView Golf Club is set on the edge of peaceful Byron astride a lofty hill that offers dramatic elevation changes on several holes on the challenging back nine, including a tight but potentially ego-pleasing downhill tee shot on homeward-bound #18.

Todd Tucker, Executive Director of Byron Forest Preserve District, had this to say about PrairieView Golf Club:

"PrairieView Golf Club is a gem. Honestly, it's no coincidence the club is owned and operated by a respected, award-winning Forest Preserve District that restores and maintains so much land here in Byron. First and foremost, we are naturalists. Our mission is to save land for the benefit of nature itself and the enjoyment of the citizens of Byron – as well as visitors to our community. In that spirit, we decided to make the best golf course we possibly could, while altering

the landscape as little as possible."

"Here at PrairieView Golf Club," Tucker continued, "your game will be challenged. And, all players are amazed at the experience of just being on this beautifully maintained property. It's peaceful and relaxing here at PrairieView. It's a wonderful place to get away from the daily grind."

Tucker also addressed the new logo change PrairieView Golf Club recently pursued.

"We were inspired to chose the bison as our symbol," he said. "Why? Because those majestic animals - which can weigh a ton, stand six feet tall, and run 35 mph - were at the very center of the biodiversity of this region up until the 1830s. They were very common here."

"To tell the truth, I wish we could have live bison here now," Tucker said. "But the bison silhouette in our logo will have to do. It serves as a reminder of the true grandeur of the land we are blessed to enjoy here in Byron – and our pledge to keep it as pristine as possible. The bison is an uniquely American animal, a true part of the heart and the heartland of our nation. It is a symbol of our natural heritage: of power, speed and biodiversity. We think it's the perfect icon for PrairieView Golf Club."

If you love the game of golf and you've never played PrairieView Golf Club – treat yourself soon. We suspect you'll be planning your return visit before you make the turn. And, when you do visit PrairieView, be sure to check out the newest addition to our facility – our incredible new eight-bay Toptracer range: PrairieFire Golf + Grill. Complete with a full-service kitchen, fireplaces, a cozy bar, and temperature-controlled hitting bays, PrairieFire will keep your passion for golf burning year 'round – winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Wolf Hollow Golf: 18-hole course founded in 1928

Founded in 1928, the Wolf Hollow Golf Course has prided itself in offering a quality golf experience for everyone.

Our Wolf Hollow 18-Hole Championship course provides just the variety of course layouts to suit every level of golfer. Set among the rolling hills of Northwest Illinois, just 3 1/2 miles north of Route 20 near the Village of Lena, our course is easy to get to and ready for your enjoyment.

A demanding challenge awaits you at the 6,408 yard Wolf Hollow Championship course. It's just what the doctor ordered if you like beautiful elevation, large bent grass greens, and multiple teeing areas. Wolf Hollow will test your shot taking skills with a fantastic risk-reward design that will often entice you.

When your round is over, you can relax in our comfortable lounge and take advantage of our short-order menu, while watching television from virtually any seating location. Our banquet hall is available for wedding parties, reunions, lunch meetings, dances, and more. Simply contact the Wolf Hollow Clubhouse at 815-369-5513 to book your event.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is waiting to welcome you at Wolf Hollow - "where golf is a breath of fresh air."

RATES

Current Golf Specials Weekday Golf Specials \$32 Per Person

18 Holes, Cart and Lunch
Mondays, Tuesdays –
Thursdays, Fridays Only
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Only!!

\$22 Wednesdays

\$22 for 18 Holes Including Cart
\$12 for 9 Holes Including Cart
\$2.50 Domestic beer every
Wednesday!!

Weekday Green Fees

(Monday thru Friday)
9Holes: \$16
18-Holes: \$25
Twilight after 4 p.m. – 9-Holes: \$8
Twilight after 4 p.m. – 18-Holes: \$14

Weekend Green Fees

(Friday, Saturday, Sunday and
Holidays)
9-Holes: \$18
18-Holes: \$30
Twilight after 4 p.m. – 9-Holes: \$11
Twilight after 4 p.m. – 18-Holes: \$18

Junior Green Fees

9-Holes: \$10
18-Holes: \$16

Motor Cart Rental

(Price Per Person)
9-Holes: \$12
18-Holes: \$18

Mini Membership/ Discount Card

(12) 9-Holes: \$130

Driving Range Ball Buckets

Range Annual: \$100 per person
Small: \$3.50
Large: \$5

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens: Tropical oasis in the city

On Oct. 29, 2011, the Rockford Park District opened the doors to a brand new facility, Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, 1354 N. Second St., Rockford.

Situated along the banks of the beautiful Rock River in Sinissippi Gardens, Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens brings the tropics to the Midwest.

The entire facility is the third largest conservatory in Illinois with a total of 22,000 square feet, and at the highest point will stand 52 feet.

A tropical setting includes an 11,000-square-foot plant exhibition area complete with water features, seating areas, and sculptures, all in a tropical plant setting.

In early 2004, the Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners selected Sinissippi Park as the site for a centerpiece project for the District's 100-year anniversary celebration. Sinissippi Park was the first land purchased by the newly-formed Rockford Park District in 1909.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is named after the Nicholas family, who, in March 2006, announced their donation of \$2,150,000 toward the Conservatory project in honor of their parents, William and Ruby Nicholas.

Aside from the generous donation from the Nicholas family, nearly 1,600 donors contributed to the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Public Campaign Project.

Greenhouse vs. Conservatory: What's the Difference?

The former greenhouse was constructed in 1924 and was in need of significant

repairs. A greenhouse is a building where plants are cultivated. A conservatory is used to display tropical plants and displays and can be used for social gatherings.

The original 15-foot high Greenhouse's purpose was to grow flowers and plants that could be used throughout the Rockford Park District's parks and facilities. This purpose changed as the Park District grew, and it became impractical for the Greenhouse plantings to support the entire District.

Over the years, the Greenhouse was used to host a variety of seasonal flower shows, but the building was not originally designed for this purpose. The former Greenhouse will be memorialized with a rendering and display incorporated into the new Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens facility.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Summary of Amenities

Indoor and Outdoor Gardens Open to the Public (year-round); Growing Greenhouse; Meeting Room and Classroom Space (available to rent); Tropical Destination for Small Weddings, Receptions, and Catered Events; Children's Educational and Play Area; Garden Gate Gift Shop; Sculptures; Catering Kitchen; Outdoor Terrace

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Fast Facts:

Large palms and tropical trees came from nurseries in Homestead, Fla.
 Temperature inside the Conservatory is anywhere between 70° and 105°
 Every plant or tree has a label with its



The Rockford Park District opened the doors to Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, 1354 N. Second St., Rockford on Oct. 29, 2011.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

common and Latin name

Farthest Traveling Object: Aneityum palm from Vanuatu Islands of the Pacific

Heaviest Tree: Bismark Palm weighing over 6000 lbs (3 tons)

Longest Installation of a Tree: Bismark Palm – 8 hours, 3 machines, and a dozen workers

Veterans \$8

Ages 5-17 \$8

Ages 3-4 \$5

Ages 2 and under, free

Hours

Mondays: CLOSED
 Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$4 (Resident), \$5 (non-resident)
 Wednesdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Saturday, Sundays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Regular Admission

Adults: \$10

Seniors (62+): \$8



KRUEGER HASKELL GOLF COURSE

Purchase Season Pass Year Round | Visit Our Website For Dynamic Pricing

KRUEGER HASKELL GOLF COURSE

BELOIT, WISCONSIN

1611 Hackett St., Beloit, WI

608-362-6503 • www.kruegerhaskellgolf.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Follow us on Twitter

Alp and Dell Cheese Store: A must visit in the Midwest

Tony and Esther Zraggen, owners of the Alp and Dell Cheese Store, immigrated in the 1980's to the United States from Switzerland. At that time, they had a Dairy farm and took cheese to the farmers market in Madison for five years. After being absent from the Dairy industry for several years, they found the way back to the "cheese" with the purchase of the Alp and Dell Cheese Store in April 2009.

The Alp and Dell Cheese Store is located in Green County, the Heart of Wisconsin's Dairy and Cheese Industry. Green County has about 400 dairy farms producing 530 million pounds of milk

annually. In the remaining thirteen cheese factories in Green County, many master cheesemakers are busy turning this farm-fresh product into Green County Gold.

The Alp and Dell Cheese store is a leader in quality, selection, and price. Along with the local cheeses, Alp & Dell offers a nice selection of well-known imported cheese from Europe. A well-balanced selection of wines from throughout the world and some locally brewed beers round out our assortment. In 2011, the Midwest magazine picked the Alp and Dell cheese store as one of the "must visit places" in the Midwest.

ALP and DELL

"Eat Cheese and Live Well"

Open Monday - Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm
 Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

www.alpanddellcheese.com

608-328-3355

OVER 150 SPECIALTY CHEESES, PLUS WINE AND BEER FOR SALE

LET US SUGGEST THE PERFECT PAIRING!

One of the best places to visit in Wisconsin

#1 Cheese Store in Green County

657 2nd St., Monroe, WI
 (Near Intersection Hwy 11/81 & Americlnn)



Located in the Emmi Roth Creamery
The Makers of World Champion Cheese





Krueger-Haskell Golf Course serving the area since 1927

Krueger-Haskell Golf Course is located on the west side of the City of Beloit and opened May 1, 1927. When the course opened, it was originally a 9-hole course. In 1931, the course was enlarged to an 18-hole course. Today, the course is an 18-hole, par-70, 6158-yard course from the white tees.

Our unique layout, mature trees, and rolling terrain make it a challenging and enjoyable course for any golfer. Our course offers 4 different tee box settings on each hole, numerous bunkers, doglegs, and tight tree-lined fairways. Five water hazards, four of which were added in 2010-2011, provide for a challenging round of golf. We also offer a practice green for golfers who would like to work on chipping and putting before their round of golf. Five hitting cages are also available at the clubhouse to warm up before your round of golf.

The golf course was named for Butch Krueger and Everett Haskell. Butch Krueger was the PGA Professional at Beloit Municipal Golf Course from 1936-1966.

He brought national recognition to Beloit as a touring golf professional. He played in twelve U.S. Opens and finished in the Top 20 four times. He was the Wisconsin State Open champion four times and the State PGA Champion four times. Butch taught golf to thousands of



Hospitality, great customer service, and affordability make Krueger-Haskell Golf Course the ideal place to play golf.

COURTESY PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

Beloit golfers over several generations. Everett Haskell also had many notable accomplishments and contributions to the City of Beloit and Krueger-Haskell Golf Course.

Everett was a native Beloit, local businessman, city councilor, and an avid golfer and supporter of the golf course.

The clubhouse offers a small merchandise area providing golfers with their basic golfing essentials: golf balls, golf gloves, and tees.

Food and a bar are located inside the Krueger-Haskell clubhouse, which provides a friendly and relaxing atmosphere for golfers after their round

of golf.

They provide a variety of different food and beverage options, as well as large group catering and beverage service on the course.

Hospitality, great customer service, and affordability make Krueger-Haskell Golf Course the ideal place to play golf.

Edwards Orchard: Offering traditional family fall fun

Edwards Orchard is a fourth-generation family farm with 15 members of the family working together in the business, located at 7061 Centerville Road, Poplar Grove, Ill. The orchard is now open for fall through November.

Edwards Orchard has grown to 100 acres of apple trees, pumpkins, squash, mums, and berries. We have 50,000 apple trees and grow over 30 apple varieties.

We hope it becomes your autumn tradition to pick our premium fruit at the peak of its season.

Bakery

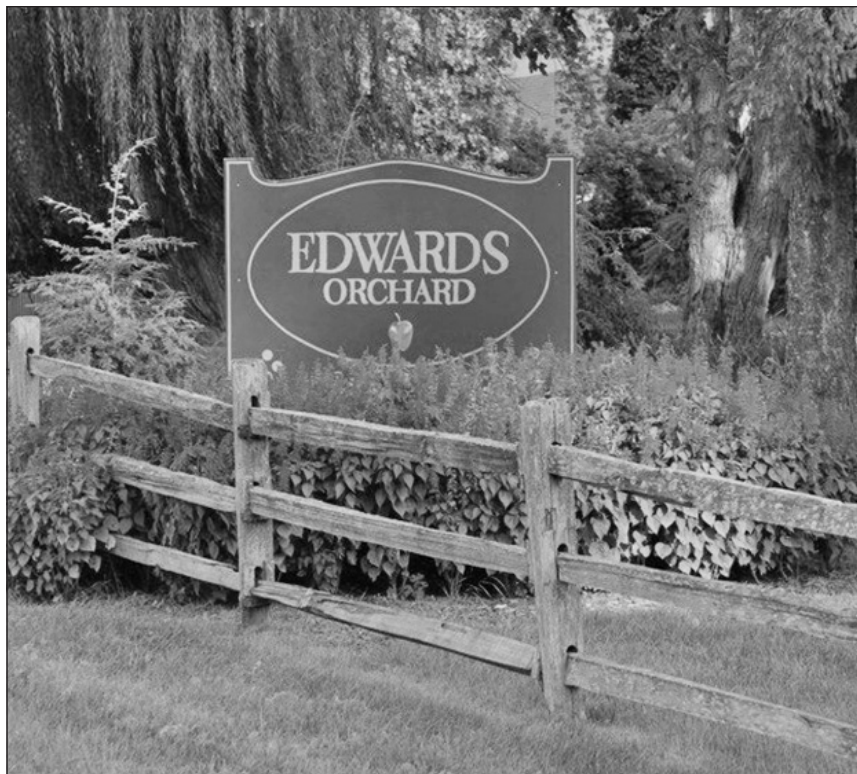
Our specialty is homemade apple cider donuts! We make them fresh daily using our own apple cider.

Specialty foods

Apple butter, salsa, jams, and fresh fudge are some of the fall favorites you will find in the farm market.

Apples

Fresh, crisp apples are available in the



store by the 1/2 peck. We grow over 30 apple varieties right here on our farm, from familiar favorites like Honeycrisp to exciting new varieties like Smitten. Our fruit is picked at its peak, just days before it is hand-packed for the store.

Cider Cellar

Visit the Cider Cellar to enjoy a pulled-pork sandwich or a slice of warm apple pie with ice cream.

Cider Mill

We press all of our own cider using in-season apples we grow in our orchard. Apples are first washed, then crushed into a pulp. A large press

squeezes the pulp, causing juice to collect in a stainless steel tank where it is treated with UV light before bottling. No sugar is added to our cold cider.

The subtle change in cider flavor throughout the season is a delicious result of apple varieties ripening at different times. Early season cider is bright and sweet, when dessert apples like Honeycrisp are in season. Midseason cider has the greatest complexity, as it blends the largest number of apple varieties. Late season cider features Granny Smith and Goldrush apples, which add tart notes and are high in tannin, a natural compound that gives cider its richness.

ROCK CUT STATE PARK

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Day weekend to Labor Day weekend) by contract of Beachwater Lifeguard & Lake Patrol.

The Lake is open from noon to 7 p.m. Admission is only \$5 for anyone over 48" tall, \$2.50 for any under 48" tall, and free for all kids three years old and younger. For additional information call 815-885-9084, or view their website at www.beachwatch.net.

Picnicking, concession

Knowing that a visit to a state park is more fun when there's food to be enjoyed, Rock Cut has picnic areas scattered throughout the park. Each is complete with tables, outdoor stoves, and pit toilets. Red Oak and Puri Crest also have playgrounds.

Check out the newest addition: Lone Rock Cafe. The cafe features wireless internet, a variety of food items, and drinks including smoothies and blended coffees. They are open May – October from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily. For additional information call 815/885-4740.

Facilities for the disabled

Several features make Rock Cut State Park accessible to the disabled. Two fishing piers are available, including a covered pier at the Lions Club day use area. The area, which is fully accessible for the disabled, features paved walkways, toilets, and a picnic shelter.

The park's campground area has flush toilets and showers that can be used by disabled visitors. Handicapped parking spaces are located in all of the park's lots.

Directions

I-90 West to Rockford. Take the Highway 173 Exit. Go west for one-half mile to the park entrance.



Prairie Fire
GOLF & GRILL

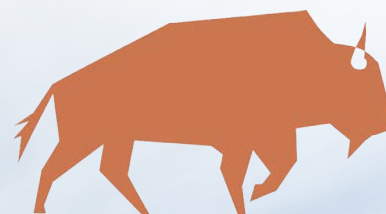
POWERED BY
TOPTRACER RANGE.

6734 N German Church Road
Byron, IL

prairiefiregolf.com
(815) 234-FIRE (3473)

RESERVE YOUR BAY TODAY!

EST.



1992

PRAIRIEVIEW

- golf club -

6734 N. German Church Road, Byron, IL

Book Tee Times Online at

prairieviewgolf.com