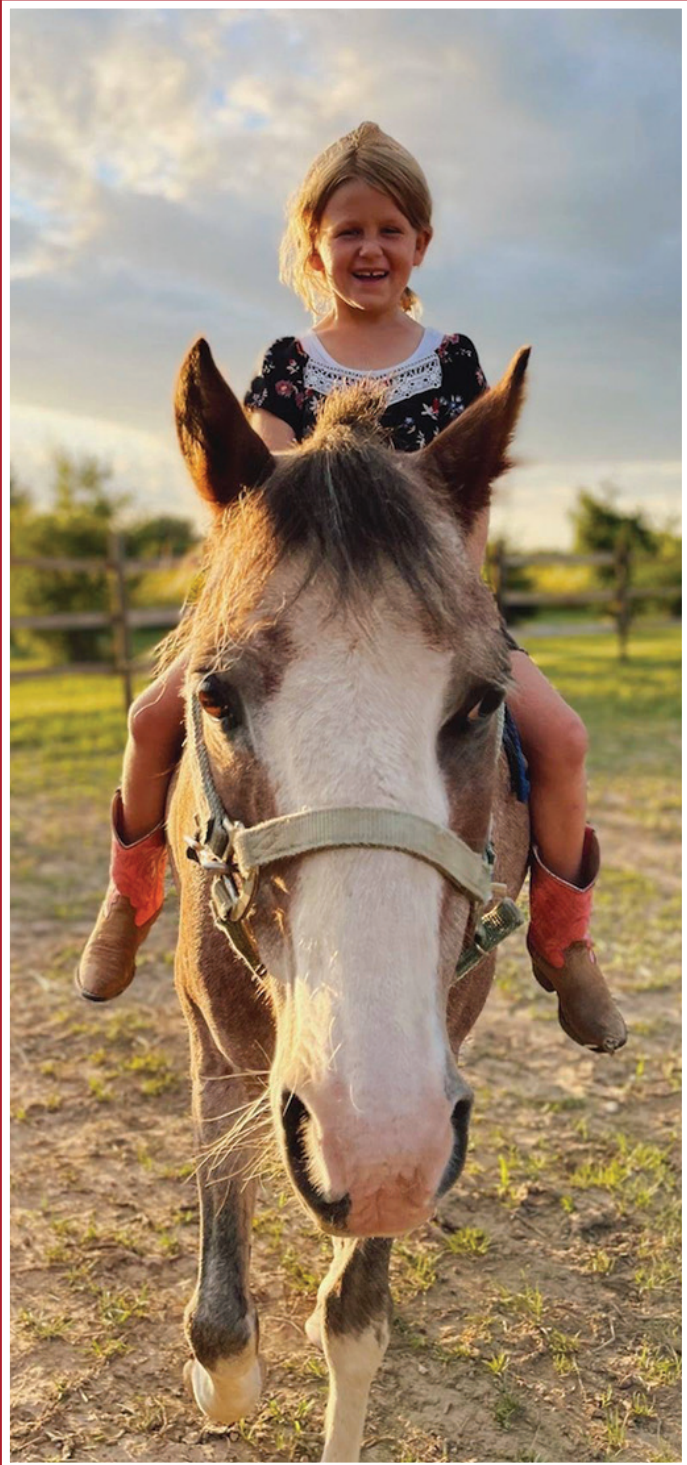


AUTUMN-WINTER  
ACTIVITY GUIDE 2025

FALL  
INTO  
FUN





# Byron Forest Preserve District



# Honey Harvest Festival

**Sunday, Sept. 21 • Noon-5 p.m.**

*Rain or Shine! (Vendors set up inside)*

**Held at Heritage Farm Museum**

**8059 N. River Rd., Byron, IL 61010**

## Craft & Food Vendors



## Honey Tasting & Beekeeper Talks



## Hayrides through the Prairie

## Live music featuring "Always Late"

Music from a long-time ago. Country, Swing, Jazz, Folk, and Blues. All veteran performers who have played in regional Country, Bluegrass, Soft Rock and Contemporary bands for decades.



# ALL FREE!

For more information email [janet@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:janet@byronforestpreserve.com)





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.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE PHOTO *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 burr 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.



Over the river and through the woods to the Heritage Farm Museum we go! Did you know that in 1843, Charlie Wilbur and his family came from New York and settled across the river from Byron, Illinois right here in this very spot? 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 and take a peek in the barns at the local “residents.” Learn more about this wonderful piece of local history here.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE PHOTO *Fall Fun Guide*

# 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 setup a tour.

# Coming soon to Coronado Theatre

*Legendary band Chicago Nov. 13, Cirque Musica Nov. 29*

Multi-Grammy award winning band and Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame inductees Chicago will be performing at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Hailed as one of the “most important bands in music since the dawn of the rock and roll era,” the legendary rock and roll band with horns, Chicago, came in as the highest charting American band in Billboard Magazine’s Top 125 Artists of All Time. Chicago is the first American rock band to chart Top 40 albums in six consecutive decades.

In 2024, the group released Chicago at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. It was a 26-track live collection recorded at the historic venue. The show covers all three studio albums from their 1969 debut to 1971 and more than two hours of live music by Robert Lamm (keyboard, vocals), Terry Kath (guitar, vocals), Peter Cetera (vocals, bass), Danny Seraphine (drums), Lee Loughnane (trumpet, vocals), James Pankow (trombone), and Walt Parazaider (woodwinds, vocals).

Chicago released Chicago Greatest Christmas Hits, a new collection combining songs from all three of its beloved Christmas albums, in 2023 via Warner Music Group/Rhino. Chicago released their 38th studio album, BORN FOR THIS MOMENT in 2022, which included the hit single “If This is Goodbye.”

In the fall of 2022, Gravitass Ventures released Chicago’s documentary “The Last Band on Stage” directed by Peter Curtis Pardini and narrated by the band’s longtime friend and actor Joe Mantegna. On March 14, 2020. Chicago is the last band playing in the U.S. as COVID lockdowns begin and “The Last Band on Stage” tells the incredible story of how the 57-year-old band survived a pandemic that stopped the world in its tracks.

Chicago received The Recording Academy’s Lifetime Achievement Award from the GRAMMYS. The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates performers who have made outstanding contributions of artistic significance to the field of recording. A special award ceremony and tribute concert celebrating the honorees was held in 2020.

The group was inducted into the 2016 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. This was their first nomination. They’ve been eligible since 1994. A long time coming!

Chicago’s first album, Chicago Transit Authority, was inducted into the GRAMMY Hall Of Fame in 2014. Chicago managed to fuse pop, rock and jazz together perfectly in this double album. Robert Lamm and James Pankow have become inductees of the Songwriters Hall of

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# 2025 FALL FUN GUIDE

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Section Editor..... Melanie Bradley  
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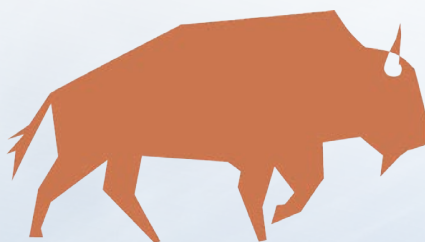
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# Rockford's History Museum offers a museum of exhibits, historic village and re-enactments

## 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 made 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 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 at right 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



Midway Village features historical re-enactors, a museum and a village of old businesses that have been relocated and restored.

MIDWAY VILLAGE PHOTO Fall Fun Guide

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.

# Welcome to Beckman Mill, near Beloit, Wis.

Beckman Mill is located at Beckman Mill County Park, 6 miles west of Beloit, Wisconsin. On the grounds of the 50-acre county park you will see an authentically restored 1868 grist mill, a new dam, mill pond, fish ladder, foot bridge, saw mill display, 1840s cooperage, visitor center, gift shop, creamery, blacksmith shop, picnic shelter, vintage garden, nature trail and more.

The showpiece of the park is the Beckman Mill, the restoration of which was completed in 1997 by the Friends of Beckman Mill's volunteer work crew. It is operational with power being supplied by its original 1860s water driven Leffel turbine. In the event alternate power is needed, the mill can be operated by its vintage two-cylinder gasoline engine.

The mill was built shortly after the Civil War by millwright William Howe of Beaver Dam, Wis. In 1882 it was acquired by August Beckmann who had previously operated mills in nearby Juda and Hanover. The mill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

**We invite you to come visit us!**

Beckman Mill County Park is open year round to the public. The mill is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m., May-October.



# Weiskopf Observatory

The J. Weiskopf Observatory, with its 11-inch 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



# 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 the nights get longer. The autumnal equinox always occurs between Sept. 21 and Sept. 24.

In 2025, the autumnal equinox takes place on Monday, 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 arrives at 1:19 p.m.

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.

EDWARDS ORCHARD PHOTO Fall Fun Guide



## 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.



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# Travel to these destinations for a good scare this Halloween

Those who want to make the most of Halloween can include travel plans in their schedules. North America boasts plenty of locations that have scary-sounding monikers, are supposedly haunted, or have attractions that will appeal to those looking for a few extra chills and thrills.

## Salem, Mass.

Salem is a prime spot to spend Halloween because of the events that took place there in 1692-93 surrounding the Salem Witch Trials. Mass hysteria among the area's Puritans resulted in accusations, convictions and executions of people purported to be witches. Given witches' relationship to Halloween, Salem is popular among tourists year-round, and especially so in October.

## Screams Halloween Theme Park

Visitors to Dallas, Texas may be expecting to see cows, horses or even oil rigs, but they also can visit a theme park devoted to Halloween fright. Screams Halloween Theme Park visitors can see five haunted attractions and additional entertainment.

## Tombstone, Ariz.

This is the quintessential Wild West town made famous by Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Resident ghosts are said to haunt the theater, and there are haunted hotels where visitors can stay. Some walking ghost tours can make a visit even more frightful.

## Hell's Gate, British Columbia

Hell's Gate is located on the Fraser River at a point where it narrows and becomes whitewater rapids. Visitors can take an Airtram down into the canyon to see Hell's Gate up close or traverse a suspension bridge.

## Green-wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

Many historic cemeteries offer tours around Halloween and at other times of the year. Green-wood in the borough of Brooklyn is one of them. Walk the winding paths on your own, or sign up for a private tour.

While you're in the area, take the Verrazano Narrows Bridge into Staten Island to visit the spooky-sounding Great Kills area. "Kill" comes from the old Dutch term meaning "creek." Staten Island also has Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull, which sound equally ominous.

## Sleepy Hollow, New York

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is a classic story by Washington Irving featuring the fabled Headless Horseman. The real Sleepy Hollow is a small town along the Hudson River. During Halloween season, visitors can tour Gothic mansions and enjoy haunted hayrides, blazing pumpkins and more. Make sure you cross the Headless Horseman Bridge with plenty of time to spare to make it out of town before sunset.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

# Hard Rock Rockford Casino celebrates its first year open

Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility opened on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in Hard Rock tradition.

"The economic impact of this casino will provide hundreds of new jobs and boost the entertainment options for anyone living near or visiting Rockford. We are thrilled to welcome this new property to our global portfolio of over 300 Hard Rock venues."

The casino, located immediately 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, featuring a diverse array of attractions including nearly 1,300 slot machines, 50 live table



games including a poker room, a state-of-the-art sportsbook, six unique restaurants, and a Rock Shop offering authentic Hard Rock merchandise and more.

One of the highlights of the new casino is the Hard Rock Live entertainment venue, spanning

23,000 square feet, accommodating up to 2,000 guests for concerts and performances.

The entertainment powerhouse invited the public to experience an electrifying musical celebration as part of its grand opening Labor Day weekend celebration. with concert performances scheduled Friday, Aug. 30–Sunday, Sept. 1 at its new, permanent casino location, 7801 E. State St. in Rockford.

"Entertainment is at the heart of Hard Rock Casino Rockford," says Geno Iafrate, President of Hard Rock Casino Rockford.

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

Known for his many guitars, on Aug. 7, Hard Rock Rockford officially revealed Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielsen's Five Neck Fortune game. The perfect theme for this 5-reel slot machine.

HARD ROCK ROCKFORD PHOTO *Fall Fun Guide*



The German Society of Rockford will present the 2025 Oktoberfest at Loves Park City Hall from 11 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, Sept. 27.

GERMAN SOCIETY PHOTO *Fall Fun Guide*



In 1865, Robert Tinker began building his Swiss Cottage on the limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek in Rockford.

TINKER SWISS COTTAGE PHOTO *Tourism Guide*

# Visit Rockford's historic Tinker Swiss Cottage

Robert Tinker's inspiration for the Cottage came during his tour of Europe in 1862, where he fell in love with the architecture of Switzerland. In 1865, Robert began building his Swiss Cottage on the limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek.

Robert surrounded his Swiss Cottage with over 27 acres of trees, vines, winding pathways, flowerbeds, and gardens. A three-story Swiss inspired barn was added to the property which housed cows, chickens, and horses.

On the side of the Cottage, Robert constructed a suspension bridge crossing the Kent Creek. This bridge linked the Cottage with his wife's, Mary Dorr Manny Tinker, limestone mansion and grounds.

In 1906, the railroad bought the remainder of Mary's estate. At the end of Robert's suspension bridge, he planted elaborate gardens deemed the

Railroad Gardens where passengers could stroll as they waited for the train.

The Tinker family, the sole occupants of the Swiss Cottage, left their home to the Rockford Park District and their household belongings to trustees after seventy-five years of residence.

Filled with original furnishings, artwork, diaries, clothing and household items, the Cottage is a rich time capsule of life during the Victorian Era. The Cottage is also one of only a handful of Swiss-style homes remaining in the United States.

In 1943, Tinker Swiss Cottage opened to the public as a Museum and is supported in part, by the Rockford Park District.

## Pre-Columbian Native American Mound

We have a Pre-Columbian conical

mound on the museum grounds.

A conical mound is a round mound typically associated with Native American burials.

Other types of Native mounds include effigy mounds (shaped to represent animals and ideological iconography) and linear mounds (typically a straight line).The mound on the museum grounds has been archaeologically dated between 1000-1300ACE.

## The Pioneer Period

Rockford was founded in 1834, by Germanicus Kent, Thatcher Blake, and Kent's former-slave, Lewis Lemon. Kent built a sawmill and grinding mill that drew its energy from the water power in the creek. The sawmill attracted many others to the area for manufacturing ventures, thus developing the Rockford Water Power District.

The Tinker Railroad Gardens and Prairie are now located on the original Kent property. The Railroad Garden ponds were developed as retention ponds used by Germanicus Kent for his grinding mill and are still located on the site. The population steadily grew and Rockford was incorporated as a city in 1852.

## The Manny Reaper Trial

Rockford's nickname at one point was the "Reaper City," thanks to the innovative creation by John H. Manny. The invention won many awards throughout the county and overseas.

Due to the attention and competition, Cyrus McCormick, the other big reaper giant, sued John Manny for over \$400,000 of patent infringements in 1855.

Mr. Manny hired two famous attorneys to defend him in the case,

Abraham Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton. The case was won and upheld all the way to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the trial took so much of a toll on John Manny that he passed away from tuberculosis two weeks after the verdict.

The change in Illinois law allowed his widow, Mary Dorr Manny, to control and run the Manny Reaper Works, and to earn a steady paycheck beginning in 1857. Mary, the widow, was truly a woman ahead of her times, holding a position in a national company that was typically only offered to men until well into the mid 1900s.

Eventually, Mary Dorr Manny married Robert H. Tinker and her legacy became part of the Tinker Cottage.

Tinker Cottage is located at 411 Kent St, Rockford, Ill. For more information, call 815-964-2424.



# Lena Lions Club 74th Annual Fall Festival

"The Cadillac of Small Town Festivals"  
**Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> • Lena, IL**

PARADE THEME: "Community Pride" Saturday at 12:00 Noon  
Start at Old School Apartments (Old Grade School)  
and follow same route as years past  
with a flyover by the Freeport's Pilot's Association  
Look for "Pork Chops on a Stick" during the parade!



Friday 7 p.m. - Free Entertainment  
GRASS ATTACK

Saturday 7 & 9 p.m. - Free Entertainment  
THE STINGRAYS



## 50/50 Cash Raffle

Drawing held Saturday at approximately 11 p.m.  
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Only 5,000 tickets will be printed with only one prize so get your tickets early!

## 2025 Polaris Zenith Blue UTV SP570 Ranger

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3rd Prize: \$100 Lena Money Gift Certificate

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# BYRON PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE:

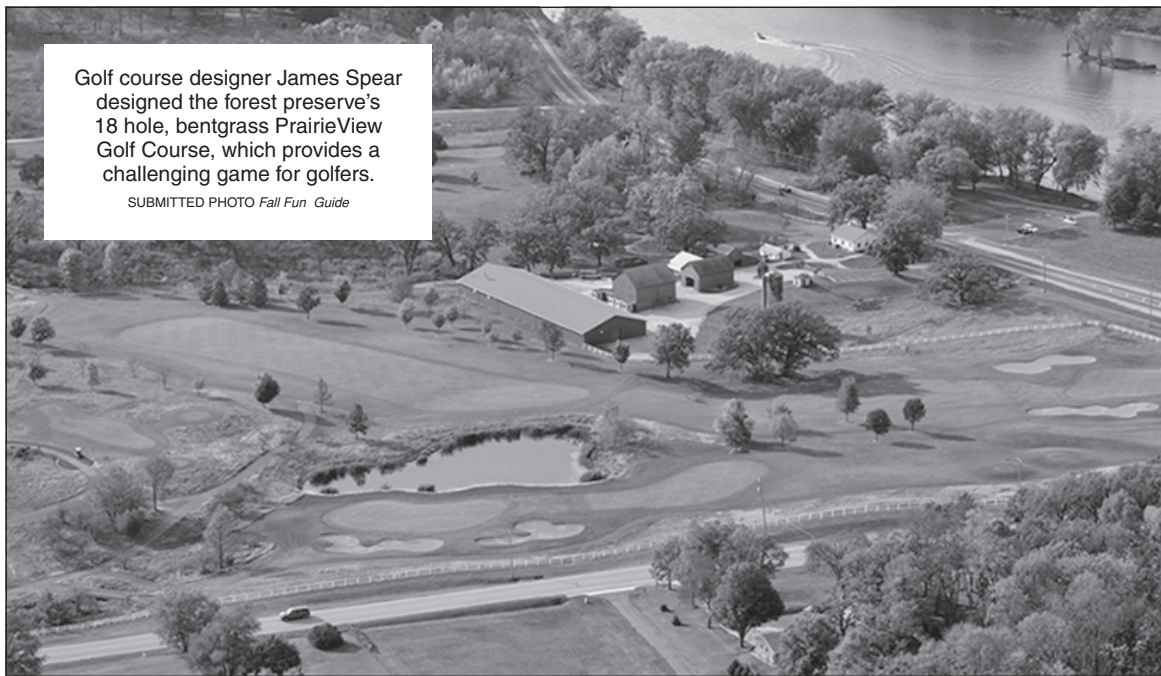
## Winding through the beautiful prairie

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



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

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 the 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 bent grass cultivar greens while the tee boxes and fairways consist of a

Penneagle/Seaside/Emerald bent grass 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.



Silver Ridge Golf Course in Oregon, Ill. can accommodate outings both big and small. Whether its a small outing of 12 with a few friends or a larger fundraising outing with 150 participants, Silver Ridge is ready to make your day run smoothly from golf to dining.

Our scenic 18-hole golf course is sure to offer plenty of enjoyment for the casual golfer but also plenty of challenge for your more serious golfers.

With two different banquet rooms and bar area Silver Ridge has more than enough space to accommodate both small and large outings comfortably. Let the staff at Silver Ridge handle the day so you can relax and enjoy the day with everyone else.

Silver Ridge features the following amenities:

- 18 Hole Scenic Golf Course
- Bar Area
- Beverage Cart Available
- Driving Range
- Golf Instruction

Contact Head Golf Professional Shane Stuart for individual or group instruction for all ages and abilities.

Pricing  
\$30 - 30/40 min. Individual Adult Lesson

\$15 - 30/40 min. Junior Golf Lesson (Under 18)

Lesson Packages Available for Multiple Lessons

Summer prices

Prices valid for 2025 Season (May 26-Oct 8)



\*Prices subject to change  
Weekdays  
9 Holes - \$15/\$15  
18 Holes - \$20/\$20  
Twilight Golf After 3 p.m. - \$25  
\*Seniors take \$2 Off Green Fees Weekends/Holidays  
9 Holes - \$21/\$15  
18 Holes - \$28/\$20  
Twilight Golf after 1 p.m. - \$30

\*Seniors take \$2 Off Green Fees Range Bag (Approx 50 Balls) - \$7  
Spring/fall prices  
Prices Valid for 2025 Shoulder Seasons  
(Oct. 15 - Closing Date)  
\*Prices subject to change  
Fees Weekdays  
9 Holes w/cart - \$18

18 Holes w/cart - \$25  
9/18 Holes Walking - \$15  
Weekends  
9 Holes w/cart - \$23  
18 Holes w/cart - \$33  
9/18 Holes Walking - \$18  
Silver Ridge Golf Course is located at 3069 North Hill Road, Oregon, Ill. For more information, call 815-734-4440.



# Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens: Tropical oasis in the city

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

In the fall of 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 Sinnissippi 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 Sinnissippi Park as the site for a centerpiece project for the District's 100-year

anniversary celebration. Sinnissippi 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 the 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

## Regular Admission

Adults: \$10

Seniors (62+): \$8

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.

## TRAVEL

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

### Savannah, Ga.

Tourists in Savannah will find the city is billed as "America's most haunted city."

There are a wide range of architecture styles and plenty of spots that would be right at home in horror flicks. Tours let visitors explore the city's haunted happenings.

Halloween is a time to enjoy the cool weather by traveling to locations with scary names and scenery.



## WEEKDAYS:

- 18 holes with cart: \$25
- 9 holes with cart: \$18
- Walk 9 or 18: \$15

## WEEKENDS:

- 18 holes with cart: \$33
- 9 holes with cart: \$23
- Walk 9 or 18: \$18

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Fame in 2017. These legendary songwriters wrote mega-hits such as, “25 or 6 to 4,” “Saturday In The Park,” “Feelin’ Stronger Every Day,” “Make Me Smile,” and many others.

The band’s lifetime achievements include two Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, Founding Artists of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a Chicago street dedicated in their honor, and keys to and proclamations from an impressive list of US cities.

Record sales top the 100,000,000 marks, and include 21 Top 10 singles, five consecutive Number One albums, 11 Number One singles and five Gold singles. An incredible 25 of their 38 albums have been certified platinum, and the band has a total of 48 gold and platinum awards.

Chicago has toured every year since the beginning – they’ve never missed a year. The original three band members are Robert Lamm on keyboards and vocals, Lee Loughnane on trumpet and vocals and James Pankow on trombone. The band line-up also includes Wally Reyes, Jr. on drums, Tony Obrohta on guitar, Loren Gold on keyboards and vocals, Ray Herrmann on sax and flute, Neil Donell on vocals, Eric Baines on bass and Ramon “Ray” Yslas on percussion.

From the signature sound of the Chicago horns, their iconic vocalists, and a few dozen ever-classic songs, this band’s concerts are celebrations. 2025 marks the band’s 58th consecutive year of touring!

Chicago continues to be true ambassadors for their beloved hometown, carrying the city’s name with pride and dignity around the world.

### Cirque Musica

This holiday season, experience the magic of cirque like never before with the all-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland, coming to the Coronado Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 29.

“Enjoy a thrilling blend of world-class circus artistry and your favorite holiday music. This spectacular production will transport you to a winter wonderland of awe and enchantment,” representatives said.

“With breathtaking acrobatics, soaring aerial performances, and an all-new production for this year, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland delivers an unforgettable holiday experience for the whole family. Feel the holiday spirit come to life with heart-pounding feats and beloved seasonal melodies,” they said.

Tickets are on sale now for both Chicago and Cirque Musica at Ticketmaster.com, by calling 815-968-5222, or in-person at the BMO Center box office (open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

### About the theatre

The Coronado Theatre is a historic landmark and event venue in downtown Rockford, Illinois, the fifth largest city in Illinois outside of the Chicago metropolitan area.

First opened in 1927, and restored and expanded in 2001, the “atmospheric-style” theater seats 2,309 and is host to various musical and performance groups, concert tours and traveling shows each year.

It is owned by the City of Rockford, overseen by the Rockford Area Venues and Entertainment Authority, and managed by ASM Global.

For more information, visit the website coronado.asmrockford.com.

# Visit Macktown Living History

Stephen Mack, Jr. is accredited as being the first permanent white settler in this region.

Born in Turnbridge, Vermont in 1798, he quit school in 1818 and joined his father in Detroit, Mich. to become a licensed fur trapper for the American Fur Company.

His trade led him to Grand Detour where he met and eventually married a young Winnebago/Potawatomi girl by the name of Ho-no-ne-gah.

In 1835 Stephen claimed 1,000 acres on the south side of the confluence of the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers where he started a settlement called Pecatonic.

A federal census in 1840 lists the population of Pecatonic as 281 persons living in 50 households. In 1845 Stephen, his brother and David Jewett built the first bridge across the Rock River to help the settlement grow.

Stephen Mack and Ho-no-ne-gah, also known as Mary Hononegah, were the parents of 11 children, two of which died in infancy. Stephen placed a great emphasis on education and set up a one-room school in a building he owned next to his own.

He paid the teacher’s wages out of his own pocket. Eventually, a school/meeting house was built in the settlement.

Hononegah died in 1847. Many mourned her passing, for her kindness to those in need and skillful care of the sick were well known. Stephen passed away in 1850.

The children were separated and most were assigned guardians in Michigan or Wisconsin. Mack’s bridge washed away in 1851. It was never rebuilt. Residents eventually moved away, many to the north side of the river (Rockton) where a mill race provided waterpower for industry.



**from above:** Founded in the 1830s by Stephen Mack Jr., Macktown is one of the oldest settlements in northern Illinois. Walk where history happened, explore frontier life, and see the trades and traditions that built our region; Don’t miss the Frenchman’s Frolic coming up at Macktown Living History on Oct. 17-19; A Macktown Living History reenactor greets visitors at his store.

MACKTOWN LIVING HISTORY PHOTOS *Fall Fun Guide*

Pecatonic is now known as Macktown. The settlement site has been designated a national historic site in the Macktown Forest Preserve.

Stephen Mack’s home and the limestone Whitman’s Trading Post still stand, as well as the building that once housed the one-room school.

It has been rebuilt on its original site and is known as the Stevens Shop since Sylvester Stevens, the young cabinet maker who lived and worked there. Many in the Stateline area recognize the name

Stephen Mack Middle School,

Hononegah Community High School, Hononegah Forest Preserve, Whitman Post Elementary, and the Macktown Forest Preserve.

The legacies of these early settlers live on not only as names but in remembering what they hoped, dreamed and accomplished.

The destiny of man is - They come, they suffer, they go and are forgotten. But we shall leave no memorial to future generations of our existence. Shall we not add our mite to the general stock of

knowledge, Morality, and Religion.

Shall we not strive to make our descendants more happy, more virtuous than our ancestors. If so, we shall not have lived in vain, but shall have added a link to the progressive chain of perfection and future generations will honor us, not as individuals, but as part of a community who have employed their energies and wisdom for the amelioration and elevation of the human family.

Macktown Living History is located at 2221 Freeport Rd., Rockton, Ill.





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