

NEWS

Champaign County Forest Preserve District
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Middle Fork River Forest Preserve • Homer Lake Forest Preserve • Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
River Bend Forest Preserve • Sangamon River Forest Preserve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE **(FORMERLY EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM) TO** **PARTICIPATE IN EFFORT TO BREAK WORLD RECORD**

Champaign County has the unique opportunity to play a part in setting a new world record while celebrating our Lincoln heritage. February 11th kicks off the 150th anniversary observance of the Civil War and marks Lincoln's journey from Springfield to Washington, DC and his 1861 "Farewell Address." Nationwide people will be reading Lincoln's speech simultaneously at 11 a.m. in an effort to beat the record of 223,636 participants reading aloud from the same document.

The Museum of the Grand Prairie plans to join in this event. Participants will assemble for the reading at the entry to the *Champaign County's Lincoln* exhibit. Following the reading, there will be a showing of the video *Champaign County During the Civil War*. The script for this video production was written by Robert H. Behrens, author of *From Salt Fork to Chickamauga* and a former CCFPD Commissioner. The video project was a collaborative of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Champaign Public Library. The Lincoln exhibit will also be open, and there will be self-guided activities for children. There is no admission fee; for more information, call (217) 586-2612 or email ckennedy@ccfpd.org.

The Museum of the Grand Prairie is a facility of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and is located on Route 47, 1/2 mile north of I-74 at Mahomet. The CCFPD provides conservation, education and recreation for the citizens of Champaign County and manages more than 3,800 acres of open space located at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet; River Bend Forest Preserve, Mahomet; Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer; Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield; and Sangamon River Forest Preserve, Fisher.

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