

NEWS

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Middle Fork River Forest Preserve • Homer Lake Forest Preserve • Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve • River Bend Forest Preserve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2008

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EVER WONDER WHY YOUR SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE IT DOES?
EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM EXHIBIT PROVIDES
ALL YOUR ARCHITECTURAL ANSWERS
Museum Opens for the Season March 1

Mahomet, IL, Feb 14 – The Early American Museum will open its 2008 season March 1, 2008 with a presentation featuring this year’s special exhibit “Bricks and Balustrades: School Architecture in Champaign and Ford Counties.” The exhibit explores the meanings of local school buildings, both architecturally and within their communities. Photographs of all school buildings currently in use in Champaign and Ford counties will be featured.

The exhibit will discuss some of the most prevalent styles of architecture – Classical and Gothic Revival, Art Deco and Modern – as well as the four Rs of Preservation – Restore, Rehabilitate, Replicate and Reuse. In addition, the social context of school buildings, such as the school building boom of the 1950s, and the school building consolidations of the 1980s, will be discussed. Finally, an overview of green architecture, with a look toward the future, will be included. The exhibit is cosponsored by the Regional Office of Education.

At 2 PM March 1st, Architectural Historian Rebecca Hunter will discuss the importance of historic preservation, and how to identify what should be preserved. In her presentation, “Historic Preservation: Conserving Heritage through Preservation, Restoration and Salvage,” she will examine the history of the preservation movement and suggest avenues on how one can become involved in local, state or national preservation efforts. This program, the first in the CCFPD’s 2008 Lecture Series, is partially funded by the Illinois Humanities Council.

The Early American Museum will be open 1-5 PM daily beginning March 1st with extended hours during the summer months. The museum 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 3,500 acres of open space located at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet; River Bend Forest Preserve, Mahomet; Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, and Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield.