

# The Leaflet

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

## THE RAIL TRAIL RAMP RUNNER BENCH

**SUPPORT THE FOREST PRESERVES through workplace giving!**



United Way of Champaign County



### Ramp Runner Bench *(continued)*

*(continued from cover)*

the route. Hence, the group self-described as Ramp Runners.

Through those years over 70 people including seven women have participated in those workouts. Perhaps, the allure of the group is the eclectic mix of personalities and professions. For example, there are individuals from academia, accounting, agriculture, banking, education administration, financial services, law, medicine, non-profits, sales, and science. Spirited arguments about politics and life in general helped shift the focus from the pain of running and encouraged attendance to correct the erroneous views of other group members. However, the 5 a.m. starting time has been problematic for the recruit of new members. Nevertheless, in addition to the exercise regimen, there have been social gatherings, which continue to this day.



Members of the group have been financial contributors to the Champaign County Forest Preserve and the Rail Trail project, and some have contributed their talents through various organizations for years to help create the reality. And, the Ramp Runners use this beautiful trail to run, bike and walk. Certainly there is nothing better than watching the sunrise or enjoying the landscape at any time while enjoying this wonderful venue.

**Do you have a story to share?**  
Email, [lsprinkle@ccfpd.org](mailto:lsprinkle@ccfpd.org)



#### YOUR STORY

**Just a short distance east of Fulls Siding on the Rail Trail** there is a very good quality bench with a plaque inscribed "In memory of The Ramp Runners." One might wonder, who are these characters?

Well, decades ago there was an early morning men's fitness class at the old McKinley YMCA on Church Street in Champaign. For a time, the group did calisthenics and ran laps in the gym. As the running craze was growing, the group moved outside. Since 10K (6 mile) running events were popular, the group mapped

out six-mile routes for Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and ran those routes year-round regardless of the weather conditions. Eventually members would travel to run events in other cities that had more varied topography than Champaign-Urbana. To train for those hills the group included parking ramps along  
*(continued on back)*



# PROTECTING NATURE. CREATING CONNECTIONS.



## On Your Nov 3 Ballot

The referendum asks voters to approve a limiting rate increase of .016% (**1.6¢**) on the Forest Preserve's property tax levy. The limiting rate would go from .0873% to .1033%.

## We Need Your Help

The funds would be used for **upkeep, repairs and restoration** of the Forest Preserve's aging buildings, roads, bridges, dams, ponds and facilities.

The Forest Preserve's property tax rate has remained substantially **unchanged in 40 years**, attesting to our outstanding stewardship of taxpayers' money.

**But 1980 revenue doesn't cover 2020 costs.**

This increase will yield nearly  
**\$700,000**

for Forest Preserve improvements and operating expenses.

**70¢**

\* estimated increase per month to support your forest preserves

**\$157,800**

median home value in Champaign County \*



### THE REFERENDUM PASSES. The Forest Preserves will be able to:

- Restore** Middle Fork's Willow Pond
- Improve** the Homer Lake Interpretive Center
- Replace** the roof on the covered bridge at Lake of the Woods; **repair** the dam & spillway at Lake of the Woods and Homer Lake
- Improve** bike paths and trails
- Upgrade** public restrooms
- Create** more nature and history connections through children's programming



### THE REFERENDUM FAILS. The Forest Preserves will be forced to:

- Forego** much needed repairs across all sites
- Close** unsafe and deteriorating facilities and structures
- Cut** some programs and events, and raise fees on others
- Delay** restroom, trail, and playground updates indefinitely
- Shrink** the budget for equipment, staffing, and technology needs

## GET THE FACTS!

For more information, visit: [ccfpd.org/faqs](http://ccfpd.org/faqs) • call 217-586-3360 • email [hq@ccfpd.org](mailto:hq@ccfpd.org)



## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

**Friday, October 2**

### LATE SUMMER PRAIRIE WALK

Online Event, streamed on the Homer Lake Interpretive Center Facebook page and CCFPD YouTube channel

Premiering this week! Join us for a walk through one of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's prairies to learn more about the different species that can be seen in the late summer, and look for other signs of fall. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

**Mondays in October**

### MOONDAYS

Online Event, posted on the Homer Lake Interpretive Center Facebook page, times vary

We can't get together for our regularly scheduled fall moon hikes, but you can plan your own! Each Monday in October, we'll be sharing information about night vision, the moon, nocturnal animals, and fun activities to try outside in the dark!

**Sunday, October 4**

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES/LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES - HARRIET BEECHER STOWE: THE ROAD TO ANTI-SLAVERY ADVOCATE

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 2 p.m.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the important anti-slavery novel, based on her experiences living in the border city of Cincinnati. Learn more about the woman Abraham Lincoln credited with writing the "book that started the Civil War," as well as other members of her large, social reform minded family - including suffragist Isabella Beecher Hooker and Illinois abolitionist, Edward Beecher. Christina Hartlieb is the Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati. A former HS educator, she loves bringing together ideas of social justice advocacy, women's history, and historical literacy. FREE. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [bgarvey@ccfpd.org](mailto:bgarvey@ccfpd.org).



**Thursday, October 15**

### SOLOISTS FOR SUFFRAGE: LIZZIE ROEHR'S

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 7 p.m.

Join us for another event in our special virtual concert series, "Soloists for Suffrage!" To go along with our newest exhibit, *How Long Must Women Wait? Woman Suffrage and Women's Rights in Champaign County*, the Museum of the Grand Prairie presents "Soloists for Suffrage!" During this virtual concert series, we will stream intimate concerts featuring talented female solo artists LIVE from the special exhibit space. The concert will stream on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages. Help us welcome Lizzie Roehrs! Lizzie's singing and guitar talents will combine for an entertaining and enjoyable experience. Tune-in to enjoy this talented local artist virtually! FREE. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [pcain@ccfpd.org](mailto:pcain@ccfpd.org).



**Saturday, October 17**

### VIRTUAL HARVEST FEST

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, All Day

Spooky stories and autumn activities await you during a virtual version of this popular fall event! Enjoy the fun traditions of the season virtually, including corn shelling and apple peeling demonstrations, a Q&A with local pumpkin farmers, a hayrack ride, and spooky stories told by a professional storyteller! Tune-in throughout the day to enjoy these virtual activities as they happen live or premiere on our social media pages. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [pcain@ccfpd.org](mailto:pcain@ccfpd.org).

**Thursday October 22**

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES - THE DANGERS OF GIVING WOMEN THE VOTE: POLITICAL CARTOONS AND SUFFRAGE

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 7 p.m.

Many political cartoons of the late 19th century and early 20th century centered on the suffrage debate, Dr. Julia diLiberti, College of Dupage,

will compare political cartoons from the suffragist era and those depicting female candidates today. Dr. diLiberti is a Professor of Humanities at the College of DuPage and serves as the Global Education Faculty Liaison. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [bgarvey@ccfpd.org](mailto:bgarvey@ccfpd.org).



**Saturday, October 24**

### SEED SCATTER IN BUFFALO TRACE

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 10 a.m.

Seeds can't walk but they can travel very far. Hitchhiking, exploding, and parachuting are just a few ways that plants spread their seeds. Learn how and why seeds need to move and take a walk with us at Buffalo Trace Prairie to see these seeds in action. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [mmontez@ccfpd.org](mailto:mmontez@ccfpd.org).

**Friday, October 30**

### FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Online Event, streamed on the Homer Lake Interpretive Center Facebook page and CCFPD YouTube channel

Fall is one of the most incredible times of the year in east-central Illinois. From the changing leaves to fall migration, every day brings a new change. All season long, we'll be watching for signs of fall and documenting the changes so you can see them wherever you are. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

**Sunday, November 1**

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES/LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE: SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 7 p.m.

It had been a 72-year struggle for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women their right to vote, with thousands of women dedicating themselves to "getting the vote," but it was Susan B. Anthony, a former school teacher and advocate for temperance and abolition who through her leadership for women's political equality, became affectionately and respectfully known as the "mother of The Cause." Hear from Ms. Anthony herself as she describes her tireless work towards a more just society. Join Annette Baldwin as Susan B. Anthony for this informative and inspiring presentation. Be sure to visit our special exhibit, *How Long Must Women Wait? Woman Suffrage and Women's Rights in Champaign County*, and learn about more leading ladies from our history! FREE. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [pcain@ccfpd.org](mailto:pcain@ccfpd.org).



**November 15**

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES/LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES - WOMEN, POLITICS, AND ABOLITION - A COMPLICATED COLLABORATION

Online Event, streamed on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 2 p.m.

Professor Stacey Robertson will reveal how women abolitionists in Illinois and the Old Northwest engaged in partisan politics as an avenue to end slavery and through this process found themselves increasingly aware of their own gendered disempowerment. Their efforts to expand their influence and power laid the groundwork for future women's rights accomplishments. Stacey Robertson is the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the State University of New York, Geneseo. FREE. For more info: (217) 586-2612 or [bgarvey@ccfpd.org](mailto:bgarvey@ccfpd.org).



**Tuesday, November 17**

### NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY!

Online Event, streamed on the Homer Lake Interpretive Center Facebook page and CCFPD YouTube channel

November 17 is National Take a Hike Day, and if you can't celebrate by taking a hike or walk of your own, head over to our Facebook page and take a virtual hike along some of the trails at Homer Lake Forest Preserve! Be on the lookout during the month of November for a new geocache at Homer Lake Forest Preserve! Check our Facebook page for updates. For more information: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).