

Park Forest History

Where is it Found?

The Park Forest Historical Society founded in 1985, became an independent 501(c)(3) corporation in 1989. Its mission was to support the Local History Collection and Archive of the Park Forest Public Library, started by the Reference Staff in 1981. In January 2007, the Archive was moved to remote storage by the library. In January 2012, the Archive, our office and the digital lab moved into the Archive Office, 227 Monee Road, supported by the Park Forest Public Library and the Society. Much of the Local History Collection is available in the adult services area of the Park Forest Public Library. The Society has the photograph collection, and ca. 185 linear feet of documents, newspapers and some objects. At present, the Society is seeking a permanent home for the archival collection, office and the digital computer lab. The Society runs the 1950s Park Forest House Museum at 141 Forest Blvd, where photographs and documents are on display. For more information on our story, what our past and current programs are, and how you can help, visit

www.parkforesthistor.org.

The mission of the society is:

To preserve, interpret, and celebrate the unique history, diversity and achievements of the Village of Park Forest, Illinois through exhibits, publications, and special programs;

To educate residents, students and visitors, in all aspects of the village history;

To promote and support historical research;

To encourage donations, and enlist volunteers for the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive and

the 1950s Park Forest House Museum;

To honor those who have contributed to our community over a long period of time.



PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Collection Managers

Mail to: 400 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL 60466

Archive Office: 227 Monee Road, Room 2,
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: Archivist, Jane Nicoll, H: 708-481-4252
President, Mike Gans, C: 708-305-3308

Email: parkforesthistor1@yahoo.com,
parkforesthistor3@yahoo.com

Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Blvd.

Phone: 708-748-3731, Adult Services,

www.pfpl.org. Email: adultservices@sslic.net

Park Forest Archive



Collections Available at

Park Forest Archive Office

227 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL &

Park Forest Public Library

400 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL

**Preserving
Park Forest's
Unique History,
Diversity and
Achievements**

Park Forest

Local History Collection

Park Forest Local History Collection And Archive

Volunteer Opportunities

****Help us share and preserve our history****

Stored at Park Forest Public Library

- **270 + subject files on Park Forest History**
Including, American Community Builders, Architecture, Airports, Arts, Biography, Integration, Maps, Organizations, Politics and Government, Shopping Centers, History by decades with high-lights.
- **Park Forest Reporter, PF Star, Southtown Star on Microfilm**
- **Circulating and Bound copies of 79+ Oral Histories, "OH! Park Forest" 1980-1981.**
- **Catalogued books on Park Forest and city planning, often marked, "Local History."**
- **Park Forest History Packets:** Large boxes, stored in the room off Adult Services.

Materials here give you an introduction.

PFPL Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.;
Fri-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun Sept to May,
1 p.m.– 5 p.m. Check www.pfpl.org for
schedule changes and email addresses.

It is best to contact the Park Forest Historical Society Archivist before doing a research project to see where the best resources are. Call Jane Nicoll, Archivist, at home: 708-481-4252.

Stored at the Park Forest Archive Office

Open Fridays 10 a.m. to 12 Noon;
and by appointment

- **Duplicates and originals of some of the 270+ subject files**
Including Integration and Shopping Center history.
- **Oral History project originals and photocopies**
- **Photographs, slides, negatives (5000 images)**
- **Regional history files**
- **Videotapes, DVD's, Audiotapes, CD-ROM's**
- **Manuscript Collections, Including papers of some Village Presidents.**
- **Select Government documents, including minutes of the first Village Board meetings**
- **Scrapbook original copies**
- **Maps**
- **Newspapers, hard copies. (Access may be limited by condition.)**
- **Records and scrapbooks of some PF Organizations**
- **Yearbooks, (Duplicates, Incomplete holdings)**
- **Textiles (limited) Some items of Park Forest clothing, Nixon Girls felt skirt, 1948 U.S. Flag flown at 1948 Tent Meeting.**

The Society Needs:

- **Volunteers to be trained as tour guides** for regular hours at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, and to host tours by appointment.
- **Volunteers to be trained to help with the Archive Collection tasks, including:**
- Photocopying, labeling and filing at the Archive Office and at the Library.
- Cataloging and listing archive and museum collections.
- Transcribing or clean-typing oral history transcripts—including the 90+ WW II Veteran's Oral Histories.
- Typing documents into Word and Excel programs.
- Scanning photographs and documents.
- Converting audio and video to digital files.
- Documenting Park Forest Architecture.

- **Volunteers with talent in graphics, website maintenance, fundraising.**
- **Help with programs, events, and publicity, including on Social Media.**

Learn more about us at parkforesthistor.org.

Like us on Facebook!
