

THE SPIRIT

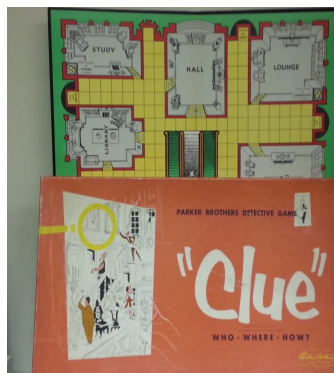
Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

Vol. 13 No. 1

September 2017

Annual Meeting, and Tour of Museum Exhibit, "Boomer Toys and Dolls," to be PFHS Program, September 24, 2017



Join us Sunday September 24, 2017, 2:30 p.m. for the Society's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. A brief meeting will be followed by a tour of the 1950s Park Forest House Museum's new exhibit, **"Boomer Toys and Dolls."** Halloween decorations will also be on display.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Ryan Hall, St. Mary's Catholic Church. Refreshments will be served.

Interested in helping preserve Park Forest History?

We are looking for new board members. Contact Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252, or via email on the website, parkforesthistory.org.

Connect with the Society

On Twitter:

@1950smuseum
@parkforeststory

On Facebook:

-1950s Park Forest House Museum
-Park Forest Historical Society

On Google+

1950s Park Forest House Museum



NEWS FROM THE 1950s PARK FOREST HOUSE MUSEUM

"Step Back into a 1950s Halloween" Exhibit will be on display September 16 through November 4, 2017. The museum, located at 227 Monee Road (inside St. Mary's) is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1-3:30 p.m.; or by appointment. The exhibit shows Vintage Halloween decorations including die-cuts and Halloween Gurley Candles. Member Bill Houston has loaned us several 1950s board games, including "Leave It to Beaver" & "Clue", a Viewmaster, toy cash register, along with other toys he has donated through the years, like our Lincoln Logs. Jane has brought in some old games and some newer versions of old games, some of which you could play! Contact Jane Nicoll if you have something to loan for this exhibit.



Be sure to join us October 25, 2017 7:00 p.m. to "Share YOUR Halloween Stories". Come tell your own stories and/or bring something to show from your Halloweens. Open to the general public. This meeting will be held in **St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ryan Hall, Park Forest, IL 60466.** **After the program, we will open the museum so you can tour the exhibits, "Step Back into a 1950s Halloween," & "Boomer Toys and Dolls."**

Hall of Fame nomination forms should be available by mid-October. Be thinking of someone who has made a substantial long-term contribution to Park Forest who would be worthy of a nomination. Nominations due in late December.

In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum: The museum is now open Wednesday and Saturday 1-3:30 p.m., in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL 60466. It can be open by appointment. Contact me at 708-481-4252, or Mike Gans, at 708-305-3308.

Volunteers: We **must** have more volunteers to be docents/tour guides at the museum in order to maintain these hours!! Please be trained to volunteer, and help us stay open in this new location.

We need a Volunteer Coordinator to schedule docents. Thanks to ME for covering this for the 2016-2017 year.

Board Service: The Society is looking for Board members. **We need new blood, and more hands to be able to serve our mission.** Currently, the board meets 2nd Tuesdays, 7 p.m., usually in Park Forest Village Hall. If you are interested in applying to be a board member, contact me.

The Society will not continue much longer without more involvement!

September is Membership Recruitment and Renewal Month!

Look for the membership brochure with form in this newsletter. Use this form or, you can opt to join via PayPal on the website (include a message, "Membership") or print out and mail in your form. Just Join!!

Active Volunteers and Members: In order to remain in operation as a Society, we must have more Active Volunteers and more Members.

Too few volunteers are doing too many jobs.

Sunday November 12, 2017 Dr. Magne Olson, "The Causes of World War I."

Be sure to join us November 12 to hear PFHS President emeritus, Dr. Magne Olson tell us about "The Causes of World War I." April 2017 marked the 100th Anniversary of the United State's involvement in World War I.

Dr. Olson was a professor of history at Chicago State University, and served as Chairman of the History Department for several years.

Our thanks to the Village of Park Forest for renewing our Matching Challenge of \$5,000. We appreciate their support!

IMPORTANT DATES IN PARK FOREST HISTORY

October 28, 1946 American Community Builders announces Park Forest will be built.

November 26, 1946 Original Plan of Town submitted to the Federal Housing Authority.

October 28, 1947 Groundbreaking for the village of Park Forest and construction of 3010 rental townhomes begins.

August 1948 First three families move in.

November 27, 1948 Tent Meeting held. Tenants vote to incorporate as a village.

February 1, 1949 Park Forest is incorporated.

It's Halloween

at the

1950s Park Forest House Museum!



"Step Back into a 1950s Halloween" with Us!

September 16 - November 4, 2017

Located at 227 Monee Road (in St. Mary's Catholic Church)

Open Wed and Sat 1:00 to 3:30;

or for groups by appointment.

Call Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252 , or Mike Gans, 708-305-3308

for more information or to schedule a tour.

Display items include a collection of Gurley Halloween candles, die-cut decorations, and a boxed costume with mask.

Admission donation is adults \$5; children 12 and under free with an adult.

Also on display, a special exhibit of

"Boomer Toys and Dolls"

Special Program , "Sharing YOUR Halloween Memories"
Wednesday October 25, 2017 7 p.m. St. Mary's Ryan Hall

parkforesthistory.org

"Like" us on Facebook and Google+ "1950s Park Forest House Museum" &
"Park Forest Historical Society"

Twitter @1950smuseum; @parkforeststory

**Park Forest
Historical
Society
Projects**

1950s Park Forest House Museum

**In St. Mary's Catholic Church
227 Monee Road**

Open By Appointment

Donation: Adults \$5; 12 &
under free, with adult.

Small groups by appointment.

School and group tours.

Park Forest Local History

Collection and Archive

227 Monee Road, and PFPL

Archive Open Friday 10-12

Oral History Transcripts

Photographs, Slides

Videotapes, DVD's

Audiotapes, CD's

Manuscript Collections

Select Village Government

Documents

Scrapbooks

Architectural History

Biography Files

Maps

Shopping Center History

Your membership preserves history.

Programs

We hold programs 5-6 times a year on Park Forest and regional history, with occasional speakers on topics of general historical interest or on preserving family photographs and resources. **Each spring we hold the Park Forest Hall of Fame Induction**, recognizing people nominated by the public for consistent, beneficial service to the community over a long span of time. Nomination forms, sent to members each fall and available on our website, are accepted between October 1 and December 15 each year.

Speakers available

We can talk to schools or groups, including to scouts working on local history.

Volunteer Opportunities

Museum Tour guides during regular hours;
and for arranged tours

Assisting at programs and public events

Graphics, website design, and Social Media

Fundraising

Cataloging, describing, numbering collections

Researching and photographing architecture

Transcribing veterans' oral histories

Job descriptions at parkforesthistor.org.

****Take our Time and Talent Survey****

*****Help us record and preserve our history*****

"If not you, who? If not now, when?"

Yes! I want to be a member.
Members receive four newsletters,
invitations, and one free museum visit.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

☐ Please send newsletters and
announcements via my email.

Membership Category

Student, with I.D. (New 2014-15) \$ 10.00

Individual \$ 20.00

Family \$ 40.00

Contributor \$ 75.00

Benefactor 1 (One month museum rent) \$400.00

Benefactor 2 (One month Archive rent) \$225.00

Corporate (Ask about sponsorships) \$ 50.00

Our membership year begins in September.

Enclosed is a check made payable to:

☐ "Park Forest Historical Society"

Mail to: Park Forest Historical Society

227 Monee Road

Park Forest, IL 60466

Or use website-PayPal, message, "Membership"

☐ **Please contact me about volunteer
opportunities.**

Park Forest Historical Society is an independent 501 (c) (3) corporation. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Who we are:

The Park Forest Historical Society was founded in 1985, and 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, which had been started by the Reference Staff in 1981. In 1998, the Society helped form the 50th Anniversary House Museum at 397 Forest Blvd. In January 2007, the Archive was moved to remote storage by the library. In the same month, the museum changed its name to 1950s Park Forest House Museum. In May 2007, the museum at 395-397 Forest Blvd lost its lease and was put into storage. In October 2007, Central Park Townhomes and AIMCO offered the museum a unit at 141 Forest Blvd, allowing the Society to pull the basic house museum out of storage. As of May 2015, the museum is at St. Mary's Catholic Church. In January 2012, the Archive and our office moved into St. Mary's, 227 Monee Road. The Local History Collection is now available in the Museum. The photograph collection is in the Archive. At present, the Society is seeking a permanent home for the museum, the archival collection, office and the digital computer lab. For more information on our story, what our past and current programs are, and how you can help, visit

www.parkforesthhistory.org.

The specific mission of this society shall be:

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
Mail: 227 Monee Road
Park Forest, IL 60466
[parkforesthhistory1 at yahoo.com](mailto:parkforesthhistory1@yahoo.com)
www.parkforesthhistory.org

Membership Form



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