



# THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of  
the  
Park Forest  
Historical  
Society

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September 2020

## Annual Meeting and Election of Board, by ZOOM, September 27, 2:30 p.m. Watch home movies after the meeting!



Matt Wenzel

### Interested in helping preserve YOUR History?

We are looking for new board members, docents and Archive volunteers. Contact Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252, or via email on the website, [parkforesthistory.org](http://parkforesthistory.org).

### Connect with the Society

#### On Twitter:

@1950smuseum  
@parkforeststory



#### On Facebook:

-1950s Park Forest  
House Museum  
-Park Forest His-  
torical Society



Join us by ZOOM Sunday, September 27, 2:30 p.m. for our Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members. Please email [pfhs@parkforesthistory.org](mailto:pfhs@parkforesthistory.org) so we send you the link to the meeting. We must hold the meeting by law and must have an election per our by-laws. The link will be shared on Facebook so look for it there, as well.

We plan to run some recently digitized films after the meeting, "Park Forest in 1948" a home movie with exterior shots of the November 28, 1948 tent meeting, and a picnic at Indianwood Golf Course on its last day; and "Early Park Forest: 1949-1950." Thanks to Paul Blobaum for digitizing.



The Society lost a wonderful part of its board in July when Matt Wenzel lost a courageous battle with cancer. Matt had served for several years, the majority of them as Treasurer. Matt was an inspiration to those who knew and worked with him, and a Renaissance Man. Matt had worked as pit crew for race cars, ran Cabin7Radio, was a music promoter, founded Steger Days of Music, was on the Steger Police Board, an elder in his church, loved the Beatles, Beatle Fest and horror films. Held his own Halfway to the Beatle Fest in his home and had just published a book of his poetry.

In the last few years he had been passionate about running, travelling widely to attend 5K, 10K and longer races. Having served on the board of Ashley Can Pediatric Cancer foundation he was always raising money for their cause.

Condolences to his wife, Donna, daughter, Lizzie, sister, Amy, and mother, Jo Ellen Wenzel-Marquis.

'Til we meet again.



## In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

**Step Back into a 1950s Halloween” Exhibit will be on display September 16, 2020 to November 07, 2020. The museum, located at 227 Monee Road (inside St. Mary’s) is open by appointment only at this time, due to COVID-19.** The exhibit shows Vintage Halloween decorations including die-cuts and Halloween Gurley Candles. **Masks covering nose and mouth are required along with 6 feet of distance between people.**



Call Jane at 708-481-4252, or Mike at 708-305-3308 or email us through our website for appointments.

**The Museum may establish regular hours again this fall if our volunteers are willing to take on shifts and if we have enough volunteers to cover all open hours.**

**Hall of Fame 2020** has been postponed twice. The PFHS Board has decided we will present the Inductees via YouTube this year. Nominators and Nominees will film individual videos. We will edit them into a program and air it on our YouTube Channel in October 2020 . Since this is new to us we will announce when the program will be ready, rather than set an exact date.

We regret that we can not induct these deserving people as we have since 1994, but we simply feel it would not be safe to do so.

We will be producing our annual booklet recognizing our Inductees, and will provide it as a link on our website. A number of them will be printed out and will be available to pick up at the museum or Archive Office in October, by appointment. Call Jane, 708-481-4252.

Nomination forms should be mailed out in October and are on our website. Check for new due date for nominations. It is usually end of December.

### **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.

**Part of helping to Save YOUR history is to lend a hand doing it!**

**Thanks to all those who do pitch in and do not or serve on the board, help with mailings, empty dehumidifiers, man tables and more.**

**Our thanks to the Village of Park Forest for renewing our Matching Challenge of \$5,000.**

**Our programs are being planned as reruns of past programs and interviews done for Channel 4 years ago. By our October mailing, we should have a schedule . We will also know by then if we can host a small public audience or only air them for all.**

Deepest condolences to the families of Mary Schmittgens, Hall of Fame 2019 , William A. Nicoll, 100, of Ruth Johnston, Ross and Loretta Lassandro., and Loretta Demarco.