



### **Park Forest Historical Society to Receive Federal Grant for Documenting Park Forest History**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently announced nearly \$30,000,000 in grants to museums across the nation. Park Forest Historical Society is receiving one of the 244 Awards. The society will be receiving \$22,701 through the Museums for America Collections Stewardship grant program for a two-year project to begin entering collections into a PastPerfect Collection Maintenance Database, improving intellectual and legal control and making them more accessible to residents, visitors to the museum, authors, scholars, students, and publishers. The project will cover collections held by the society in the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, located at 141 Forest Blvd, and in the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive, maintained at 227 Monee Road, co-owned by the Library. Some of the Local History Collection is held at the Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Blvd.

Grant monies provided by IMLS will purchase the PastPerfect Museum Software, add-ons, training CD-ROMS, online training, training manuals and support for two years. Grant monies will also purchase a computer to store the database on, a printer-scanner- copier, paper and ink, and pay for 8 hours of staff time. Included in the cost-share are many hours from volunteers who will be recruited and trained over the next few months.

The project officially began October 1, 2013. The government shut-down is affecting our ability to purchase the equipment, but we are still recruiting and planning to hold training sessions toward the end of October. Accessioning of the Museum and Archival collections can begin without the database.

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