



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

Vol. 11, No. 3

June 2016

Eight Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Seven current and former Park Forest residents who made significant and long-lasting contributions to the community through the years and regional choral group were inducted into the Park Forest Hall of Fame this past April.

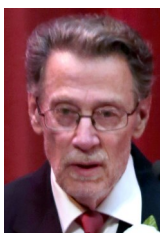
This year's group of honorees includes:

- **Don DeMarco**, who wrote the report that paved the way for the village's ground-breaking plans for integration.
- **Larry and Mary Lubertozzi**, who were both involved in both artistic and educational enterprises in the south suburbs for decades.
- **Kathy (Cardona) McDonough**, who authored a affirmative action marketing plan that was adopted by communities throughout the area.
- **Michael McNamara**, a 32-year veteran of the Park Forest Police Department, who founded a successful program to prevent underage drinking and driving.
- **Herbert E. and Patricia M. Tieder**, who worked for the Park Forest Boys Baseball program.
- **The Grande Prairie Singers**, a 40-year-old choral group with offices in Park Forest.

The Honorees

Don DeMarco

Nearly 20 years after the first African-American family moved into Park Forest, Assistant Village



Manager for Community Relations Don DeMarco prepared a groundbreaking report on how the village could sustain and support integration.

In 1971 DeMarco was hired by then Village Manager Bob Pierce in an effort to develop programs that would identify tactics and strategies that support integration, and how to combat housing discrimination fostered by real estate practices of the day in seeking to create a dual housing market.

His 1977 report, "Integration in Housing: A Plan for Racial Diversity," quickly led to an extensive guide on housing market outreach for integrated communities, "Affirmative Marketing Handbook: A Guide to Integrated Housing." Both documents are in the Archives of the Park Forest Historical Society.

Since the Integration Maintenance program was controversial, Don worked outside the Village in developing public and private allies on behalf of Park Forest; a move that proved beneficial to the village's reputation.

Demarco also managed the Salvation Army program, and was involved in helping build a diverse workforce for the Village, collaborating in numerous regional and national programs to show the benefits of diverse communities. He still refers to Park Forest as "God's Town."

Could You Help by Posting to Social Media

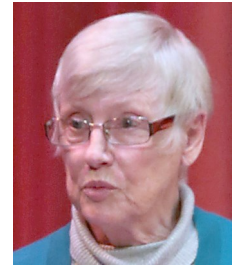
Like us on Facebook at "1950s Park Forest House Museum"
and "Park Forest Historical Society"

Like both, please.

Follow us on Twitter "@1950s Museum, @ parkforesthstory"

Mary and Larry Lubertozzi

Shortly after arriving in Park Forest in 1968, Mary Lubertozzi joined the League of Women Voters of Park Forest, later becoming its president. She was elected to the League state board and now serves as co-president of the LWV of the Park Forest Area, marking 47 years of involvement.



She served three terms as Village Trustee, writing the nomination of Park Forest for the National Civic League All-America City Award in 1977, resulting in a Second National award for the village. Mary served on the Equal Employment, Fair Housing Review Boards, the Mediation Task Force, and as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee 1991-2. After moving to Olympia Fields, she was elected a member of the library board and as president served as a liaison to the Park Forest Public Library Board.

Mary was active in the Park Forest Art Center and was president when it became the Tall Grass Arts Association. She later was the Association's Executive Director. She also was a member of the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods, Sauk-Calumet Sierra Club, and the Center for Multicultural Communities. Mary pursued her Master's Degree at Governors State University and worked in senior positions in an array of civically responsible agencies

The Lubertozzi's moved to Park Forest in 1968 and began a decades-long history of involvement with the village and the south suburbs until his death last year. A psychotherapist and counselor by profession, he was an early supporter of Thorn Creek Woods and founding member of the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods, Larry took part in rallies, petition drives, and walks in the woods with elected officials soliciting their support. A volunteer at the Nature Center, he was a member of the Sauk-Calumet Sierra Club and Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

Joining the Park Forest Art Center shortly after arriving, he served on the Board as President, Art Fair Co-chair, and Fundraising Chair. For years he volunteered for the Art Fair's early shift helping artists set up booths. An amateur artist himself, he enjoyed creating costumes and decorations for the Beaux Arts Ball.

Larry cared deeply about our democratic process, serving as treasurer in then-State Representative Jim Marzuki's successful election campaign and enjoyed his years of participation in the Park Forest Martini Club, a men's discussion group that focuses on issues of social and economic justice.

Kathy (Cardona) McDonough



For more than four decades, Kathy McDonough has established a personal commitment to justice and fairness in housing. She first became involved with the Community Information Center which merged with the South Suburban Housing Center, a pioneer in testing and housing counseling.

As Park Forest's Director of Community Relations and Economic Development from 1982-87, she contributed to the re-development of Norwood and Park Forest Plazas, and new businesses in Industry Park.

Kathy co-authored the two policy guides which served as the basis for affirmative marketing programming, with many of her recommendations being adopted by surrounding communities. She led the Village's efforts in the defense of these policies and practices, which ultimately resulted in a successful Supreme Court decision upholding a municipality's right to enter into and enforce affirmative marketing agreements.

She has continued to work in public service positions, including involvement on the Board of the Cook County Housing Authority and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. She later was the Executive Director of Turnstone Development Company, a non-profit affordable housing developer, with properties in Calumet Park, Richton Park, Riverdale, Orland Hills, and Victory Centre in Park Forest.

Michael McNamara



In his 32 years on the Park Forest Police Department, Mike McNamara created a record of distinguished service ranging from his “Licensed for Life” program to prevent underage drinking to his efforts to protect every resident he served.

A lecture to Rich East students led to the founding of the “Licensed for Life” program to prevent underage drinking and driving. With Mike as co-director, this free program now has given more than 8,000 classes in some 330 schools for an estimated 222,000 students. The organization has been featured on National Public Radio, ABC, CBS, and WGN-TV.

McNamara served on the Board of the LaRabida Child Advocacy Center and is on the executive board of PROTECT, the National Association to Protect Children with its pro-child, anti-crime agenda. As a police officer he received and managed multiple Enforcement Grants that resulted in strong enforcement of DUI laws.

He took part in the World Fire and Police games for more than 25 years in six countries, and is their all-time individual medal winner in Karate. He is co-founder of the Illinois Boxing and the Illinois Martial Arts Halls of Fame.

Herbert E and Patricia M. Tieder

Both Herbert and Patricia Tieder are being inducted into the Park Forest Hall of Fame mainly for their volunteer service during the early years of Boys Baseball. As with so many organizations in Park Forest, the Boys Baseball program began from the ground up with interested residents throughout the village serving in volunteer capacities at the height of the 20-year baby boom following the end of World War II. Herbert Tieder, a salesman for Modern Beauty Shop magazine and later publisher of a magazine about manufactured housing, was among those who devoted his spare time to shaping and unifying the fledgling program.

As a leader in the program, Herbert helped organize coaches for the games, coached, and was instrumental in player participation requirements. He insisted that every player attend practice, and each player took part in the games. He instilled a sense of “team” and self-worth, leaving a lasting impression on his players. Herbert enlisted local sports personalities to serve as Grand Marshalls in Opening Day parades.

Later Herbert organized dances at Westwood Junior High and both he and his wife Patricia would chaperone. Herbert lived in Park Forest until his death in 2009.

The Boys Baseball program affected the lives of many in Park Forest, and it would not have existed or been as well organized without the efforts of parents like the Tieders.

Although Pat, a mother of four including twin girls, worked at the Marshall Field’s store in Park Forest. Because there were no local sponsors, she found time to help the Women’s Auxiliary of Boys Baseball run rummage and bake sales throughout the year to buy uniforms and equipment. During the winter, the women mended and cleaned the heavy cotton uniforms.

Together the Tieders distributed and collected uniforms at the start and close of each season and supported those who maintained “The Coke Shack.”

As parents, they devoted their energies to support the program to ensure each player would have a positive learning experience as well as developing social skills.

Pat has been involved in Park Forest Garden Club for 13 years, serving as President in 2007-2009. She also served two terms as Membership Chair, and as Ways and Means Chair. Pat has lived in the community for almost 60 years and in her current home for 50 years.



The Grande Prairie Singers



**Artistic Director
Jo Rodenburg**

From its start in 1977 when it was formed by music teacher Sandy Chabot as a community choral group called the Park Forest Singers, the Grande Prairie Singers has become a regional treasure, sharing their passion for singing with their appreciative audiences.

Although based in Park Forest since its inception, the Singers have shared their passion for singing with audiences throughout the world, making concert tours to numerous European countries and representing Illinois in a Papal Audience with Pope John Paul II. The Singers have performed with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and most recently the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra.

Because the composition of the Singers reflects the larger south suburban area, in 2002 its name was changed to Grande Prairie Singers as part of the Grande Prairie Choral Arts, a non-profit organization that also includes the Grande Prairie Children's Chorus. As an example of its breadth, this year's chorus spans an 80-mile area from Shorewood, Illinois to LaPorte, Indiana.

Both Artistic Director Jo Rodenburg a noted concert artist and currently a voice teacher at DePaul University, and Board President Sue Koelling work closely with Prairie State College in giving performance opportunities to students.

Sharing Aqua Center Memories



Share your photographs, mementos and memories of the Park Forest Aqua Center on June 26 as the Park Forest Historical Society celebrates more than five decades of summer fun. The program will be held in Ryan Hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road. For more information call Jane Nicoll (708) 481-4252.

Join us on September 25, 2016 to hear Gretchen Buggein, author of "The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in America." her book includes information on iconic houses of worship in Park Forest.

Visit the 1950s Park Forest House Museum

Step back more than six decades with a visit to the 1950s Park Forest House Museum located inside St. Mary's Catholic Church at 227 Monee Road, Park Forest is open Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; ages 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

Learn about the history of the Village and the era in which Park Forest started. See toys, clothes, furniture, books, records, dolls, dishes and appliances. Photographs. Scrapbooks and sales brochures from the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive are on display.



Hall of Fame Snapshots



Members of the Park Forest Historical Society Hall of Fame pose for a photograph. This year's inductees pictured in the front row are Don DeMarco (fifth from left), Kathy Cardona McDonough, Patricia M. Tieder, Grande Prairie Singers Artistic Director Jo Rodenburg and Michael McNamara (last four on the right).



Mistress of Ceremonies
Therese Goodrich



Historical Society
President Jane Nicoll



Music supplied by The Big Boppers



Park Forest Mayor John A. Ostenburg

In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

Our Sunday, June 26, 2016 program has been changed to "Sharing Memories of the Aquacenter." Join us at 2:30 p.m. in Ryan Hall of St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road. Bring a photo or story of your own experience at the Aquacenter to share with the group. Gretchen Buggeln will present her book Suburban Churches (38 pages on Park Forest) on September 26, 2016, after our annual meeting.

On April 2, Kiwanis Club of Park Forest made it a Service Project to help PFHS volunteers and library staff, and Girl Scouts move the Park Forest History File cabinets, containing over 270 files of articles and documents, from the library to the museum. We hope to add more subjects and documents. We also moved two boxes of research material called "Park Forest History Packets," two binders on past Halls of Fame, two Park Forest scrapbooks, and bound copies of 26 oral history transcripts and photocopies of 50 others, which had been at the library, intended to be a circulating collection. Only 27 transcripts are on the project, "Park Forest: An Illinois Planned Community" on Illinois Digital Archives. A number of other transcripts have been retyped by volunteers, including by our Secretary, Judy McGee. They need to be proofed and catalogued before being added to the project. The transcript copies and bound volumes had recently been moved to a file cabinet in the basement of the library, with staff not aware of their location or importance. These transcripts are valuable interviews with Park Forest pioneer citizens, produced by an Illinois Humanities Council grant written and directed by former Head Librarian, Elizabeth Ohm.

All of these materials will stay with the Society for the time being, for safekeeping and promotion to the public.

The Society thanks the Kiwanis Club of Park Forest, library staff, Girl Scouts and our own volunteers who helped with the move.

Our website, www.parkforesthistory.org was recently upgraded to be mobile-friendly. Take a look at it.

We've been having good luck booking some tours with special groups and with retirement communities.

Having the museum on one floor with accessible entrances and washrooms has been helpful.

We must have more volunteers to man the museum. Some of our loyal volunteers, including yours truly, are on leave due to family health issues, and others have moved on. More people need to step up to help show the museum, or open hours will need to be reduced. Please contact me at 708-481-4252, or Mike Gans at 708-305-3308 if you have time to help.

Thank you to Mike Gans for keeping an eye on bills and banking while our treasurer is in Pennsylvania, on assignment for Verizon, and while I have been busy with family matters.

Thank you to Stacey at SugarWebs, our website host and designer, who not only did the work contracted for, but offered kind assistance with other updates. She has done a wonderful job, and we highly recommend her.